■ World / A9

Ex-general seen unseating Megawati

■ Sports / A17

Paragua youngest RP grandmaster

■ Metro / A15

Makati bans smoking in open public areas

■ Across / A13

30 NPA guerrillas storm fishpond, burn tractor, equipment

■ World / A9

Britney Spears ties knot again

Militant lawmakers regret signing petition on pork

By Carlito Pablo

SIX MILITANT lawmakers yesterday apologized for signing a petition demanding that party-list representatives each be allotted P35 million in pork barrel for the remainder of the year.

In a Sept. 9 letter to Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr., most party-list representatives voiced

MILITANT/ A4

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

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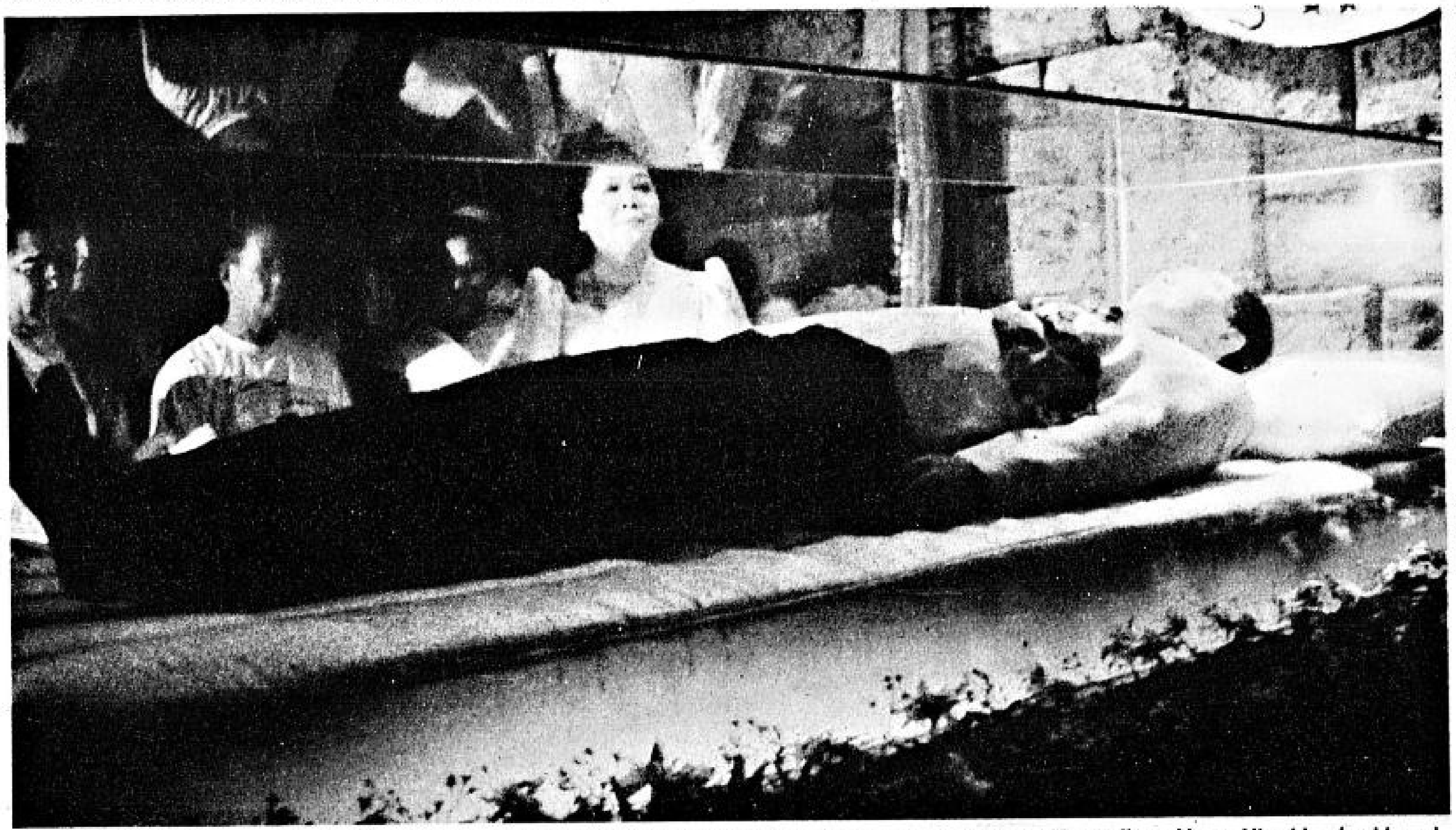
Tuesday, September 21, 2004 ★★ 40 pages / 4 sections / vol. 19 / no. 286 P18

REVILLA: I'm in peak condition.

PDI PHOTO

Revilla named PEA chair



THE REMARKABLY preserved body of the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos lies in a mausoleum in his hometown of Batac, Ilocos Norte. His widow Imelda and other relatives last visited on Marcos' birthday on Sept. 11.

TOOTS SOBERANO/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

77-year-old ex-senator says he's fit to handle job

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

OLD SENATORS don't fade away; they just get appointed to the government.

After serving two terms, or a total of 12 years, in the Senate, Ramon Revilla Sr., 77, is now the country's "reclamation czar," having been appointed chair of the board of directors of the scandal-prone Public Estates Authority (PEA).

His son, Ramon "Bong" Revilla Jr., who ran with the slate of President Macapagal-Arroyo in the May elections, landed second in the senatorial race and now sits where his father used to.

Malacañang said the appointment of the elder Revilla, a former movie actor known for his role as Nardong Putik, an *agimat* (amulet)-wielding hoodlum from Cavite, was not another case of political accommodation.

Revilla had chaired the Senate committee on public works, a post he so dearly loved that he once changed his political affiliation just to keep it. His son now chairs the committee.

Claiming his health was in "peak condition," the former movie actor vowed to remove the PEA from the list of corrupt agencies. The President abolished the agency in 2002 over an overpricing scandal but later revived it.

Senate President Franklin Drilon supported the appointment of Revilla to the PEA. He noted that Revilla had chaired the Senate public works committee for 12 years and "his

REVILLA/ A4

IN THE KNOW

THE PUBLIC Estates Authority (PEA) is a government agency originally attached to the Office of the President. It has been transferred to the Department of Finance.

The PEA was created in 1977 by then President Ferdinand Marcos through Presidential Decree No. 1084 to serve primarily as the clearing house for all reclamation projects in the country.

The agency's charter vests it with power and authority to develop and dispose of idle public lands, enter into contracts and loan agreements with private, pub

IN THE KNOW/ A4

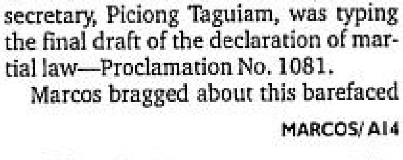
Marcos diary bares lies on martial law

By Fe Zamora

THIRTY-TWO years ago today in Malacañang, Ferdinand Marcos assured political allies he would not declare martial law. In another room, his personal secretary, Piciong Taguiam, was typing the final draft of the declaration of martial law—Proclamation No. 1081.

Marcos bragged about this barefaced

MARCOS/ A14


NAYKO! SINUNGALING! ANG SAMA! NAKUHA PANG ISULAT SA DIARY ANG KASAMAAN!

Priest recalls martial law terror

By Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

RUMORS about his death were greatly exaggerated, to borrow a classic line.

Father Jose Nacu, in fact, thrives, having survived a number of dramatic and life-threatening episodes in his priestly life.

And he's back, not from the dead, but from a long foreign assignment that offered him a sobering view of his activist past as well as a clear-eyed appraisal of the world's pressing needs, not to say his own mortality and, farther down, eternity.

So now he's trying to invest in his homeland's future, through efforts for peace and reconciliation. But that is getting ahead of the story.

Nacu, or "Joenax," of the Missionaries of Our Lady of La Salette, was immersed in work among the poor in the slums of Tondo when martial law was declared on Sept. 23, 1972. Ferdinand Marcos had signed Proclamation No. 1081 two days before.

In an interview with the INQUIRER on Thursday, the priest recalled the period that followed news of the assassination attempt on Marcos' defense minister, Juan Ponce Enrile, on Sept. 22, which bolstered the subsequent declaration. Enrile would later confess that the incident had been staged.

"We heard of that *zarzuela* [theatrics] over the radio," Nacu said. "I met with [former Sen. Jose] Pepe Diokno and several others at St. Joseph's College to organize a demonstration. I also assisted in workshops on constitutional rights."

One of the intrepid religious who had cut their teeth in the militant Zone One Tondo Organization (Zoto), Nacu was a

PRIEST/ A14

NACU: Arrested, tortured.

House body suspends hearings on nat'l budget indefinitely

By Carlito Pablo, Cynthia D. Balana and Christine O. Avendaño

THE P907.6-BILLION national budget proposed by Malacañang for 2005 is in limbo.

Three hours into the first hearing of the budget yesterday, the House appropriations committee declared an indefinite suspension of proceedings over questions about the true health of the economy.

The suspension was called by the committee chair, Rep. Rolando Andaya Jr. (LP, Camarines Sur), as lawmakers charged that government economic managers at the hearing were not transparent about the economic figures presented to Congress.

An hour after the indefinite suspension of the budget hearing, 186 House members approved the abolition of the lump-sum pork barrel system and adopted instead "modified line item budgeting" for a much reduced allocation of P40 million for projects in each congressional district.

The announcement came from Speaker Jose de Venecia, who spoke at a press conference shortly after a three-hour all-party caucus on the pork barrel system.

Pork barrel refers to the funds in the national budget for projects identified by members of Congress primarily for the purpose of ingratiating themselves with their constituents.

By adopting line item budgeting, legislators will have to specify the amounts for particular projects before the proposed General Appropriations Act is approved. Under the lump-sum system, legislators identified projects after the budget was approved.

"It is the system that we are abolishing and changing because it is prone to corruption and thievery," De Venecia said.

HOUSE/ A4

Banks already burdened, says Angara

BANKS will be hit by a double whammy if the cash-strapped Arroyo administration insists on collecting P38 billion in back taxes that they owe, according to the chair of the Senate committee on banks.

Sen. Edgardo Angara yesterday warned that the local banking system at present was already saddled with bad loans and nonperforming assets amounting to about P100 billion.

"With this unexpected tax, it will be a double whammy for the banks," Angara told reporters in reaction to Malacañang's bid to collect from the banks their back taxes on foreign currency loans and accumulated penalties.

In a briefing, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said Malacañang was supporting all efforts of the Bureau of Internal Revenue to boost the tax take of the government and ease its projected budget deficit of P200 billion this year.

"We will try to maximize tax collections and the BIR has its

BANKS/ A4

Senators reject fiscal plan, say economy will contract

By Michael Lim Ubaç

SENATORS rejected yesterday the fiscal plan of the Arroyo administration because it would not make a significant impact on the fiscal position of the government and even cause the economy to contract.

Augusto Santos, deputy director general of the National Economic and Development Authority (Neda), told senators that the proposed reform package would have a three- to four-percent "negative effect" on the economy.

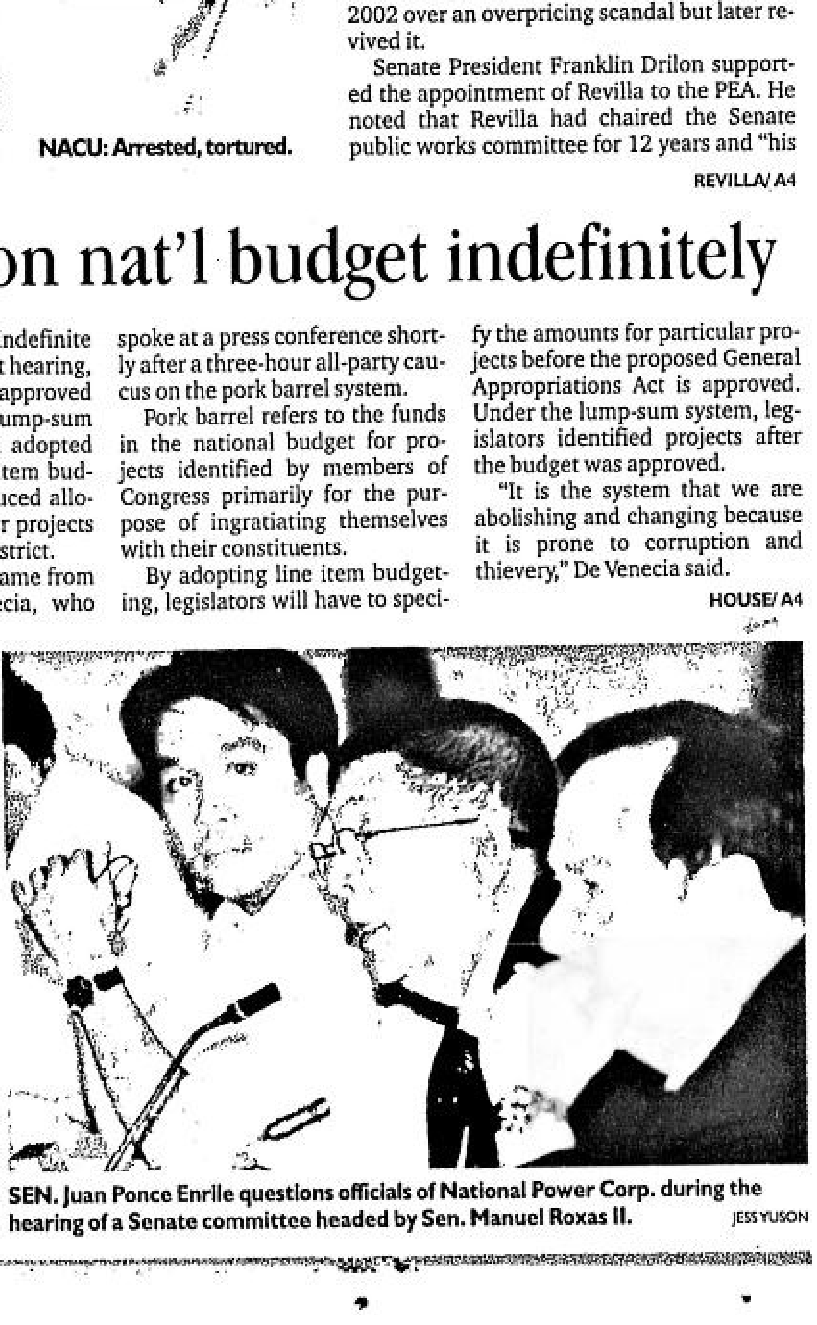
But Santos said the country would face a full-blown crisis in about two to three years as warned about by 11 economics professors at the University of the Philippines if the reformed package was not adopted.

"It was clear during the hearing that there will be a contractionary impact," administration Sen. Mar Roxas said.

The economy would "contract," or slow down, "if we will do everything that the fiscal plan recommended," said Roxas, who summoned fiscal managers to a second hearing on the impact of the fiscal plan on the "broader Philippine economic development."

Roxas, chair of the Senate committees on economic affairs and trades and on commerce, said the impact of the new taxes and

SENATORS/ A6



SEN. Juan Ponce Enrile questions officials of National Power Corp. during the hearing of a Senate committee headed by Sen. Manuel Roxas II.

JESS YUSON

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. Eastern sections of Luzon and Visayas will have partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms. SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: CHONA GALANG PDI RESEARCH/09/21/04

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

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Second FrontPage

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2 PNOC execs quit posts

By Gil Cabacungan Jr. and Philip C. Tubeza

TWO top officials of the state-owned Philippine National Oil Co. (PNOC) have resigned joining the wave of top corporate executives of the Arroyo administration who have left their posts in less than two weeks.

President Macapagal-Arroyo has accepted the resignations of Rufino Bomasang, president and chief executive of PNOC Exploration Corp., and Jose Gangan, president and chief operating officer of PNOC Petrochemical Development Corp., Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said yesterday.

Bunye said the resignations were "in line with the ongoing government reorganization," denying reports they have resigned because of their disappointment with the President and her policies.

Arroyo had warned executives of state-run companies that they would face dismissal if they did not go along with austerity measures by trimming their own salaries.

Bomasang and Gangan were the third and 12th highest-paid government officials in 2002, according to data from the budget department.

That year, Bomasang made P6.12 million pesos in salary and allowances, while Gangan earned P4.68 million.

Last week, Bomasang explained to reporters that in the PNOC, salaries were set at levels to attract the best executives and to be competitive with those offered by the multinational oil firms.

"One of the main reasons the PNOC has been able to give back almost P48 billion to the government over the years is the fact that (it) has been able to attract the best and brightest in the industry," he said.

His post, which he held since 1996, was offered to him in 1995, when he was earning in dollars as a US-AID consultant.

Contrary to reports that the rash of resignations have shaken investor confidence in the Arroyo administration, Bunye said: "We perceive a growing confidence by the international financial creditors as they viewed the actions being taken by this administration as positive."

Since last week, the administration has been rocked by the resignations of the head of the National Treasury, a Finance undersecretary, the head of the Professional Regulatory Commission, head of the Bureau of Corrections, president of the National Power Corp. and two commissioners of the Presidential Commission on Good Government. *With Reuters*

Pagcor deal in Cebu hit

By Carlito Pablo

THE GOVERNMENT may have been skinned of more than half a billion pesos in what appeared to be a "sweetheart deal" between the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor) and the Waterfront Hotel of businessman William Gatchalian.

In a statement, Rep. Imee Marcos (KBL, Ilocos Norte) yesterday said more than P650 million in government funds was lost when two Waterfront hotels—in Cebu and Mactan cities—raised the rent on the Pagcor casinos in their establishments from P300 per square meter to P1,200, or 300 percent, on Jan. 28, 2003.

What made the deal particularly onerous, Marcos said, was that it was made retroactive to January 2001.

"Pagcor's obligation is actually much bigger since to pay off Waterfront, it took out a five-year P607-million loan from the Land Bank of the Philippines and the Philippine National Bank," she said.

Pagcor already had a rental contract with Waterfront in effect since 1994; it only informed Malacañang of the new rental rates after the new deal had been consummated, she said.

Asked to comment, Pagcor spokesperson Edward King said the deal was struck during the administration of President Joseph Estrada, before the present management of Pagcor took over. Estrada was ousted in January 2001. Gatchalian was a known crony of his.

King said the deal was so disadvantageous Genuino initiated a renegotiation. *With Clarissa S. Batino*

Palace nixes bid to tap 'jueteng' to ease fund lack

By Juliet Labog-Javellana, *in Manila*
and Frank Cimatu
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

MALACAÑANG yesterday ruled out legalizing "jueteng" as an easy way to raise much-needed cash to help ease the fiscal crisis.

"To tap jueteng and other illegal activities as sources of revenue is not advisable or acceptable," said Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye in a statement. "This administration is built on a strong moral foundation that will not be easily compromised."

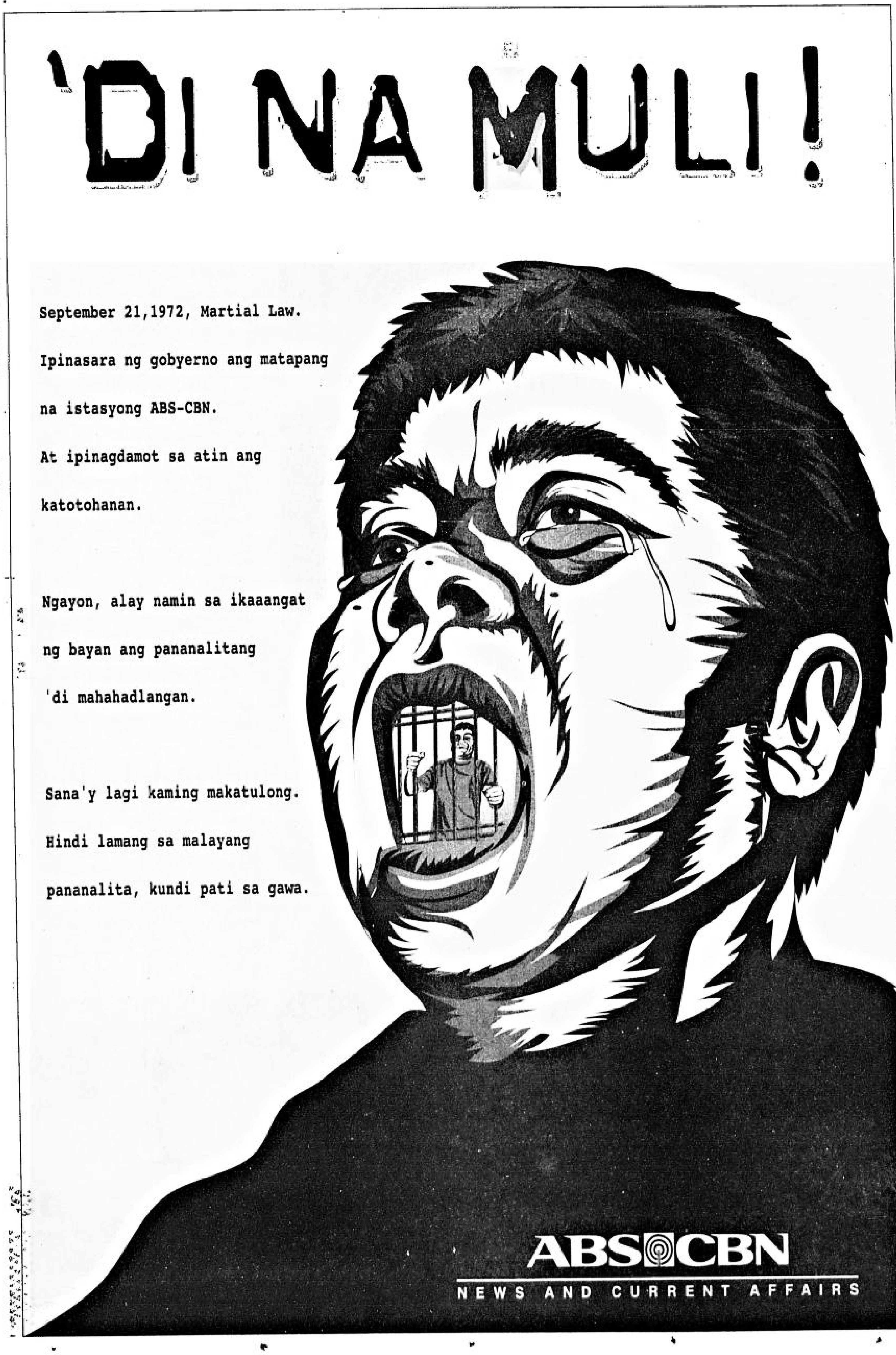
Bunye said the government's "commitment to stamp out jueteng is as steadfast as before and will not falter."

Mt. Province Rep. Victor Dominguez had suggested the government could easily raise P12 billion a year if jueteng were legalized.

Dominguez said the current fiscal crisis made the legalization of jueteng "more plausible and attractive."

He said gambling lords had welcomed the legalization of the illegal numbers game when it was first broached 10 years ago.

"We were surprised but they (jueteng lords) were amenable to the idea. They said that if jueteng were legalized, they would be paying less protection money," he said.



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Ngayon, alay namin sa ikaaangat ng bayan ang pananalitang 'di mahahadlangan.

Sana'y lagi kaming makatulong. Hindi lamang sa malayang pananalita, kundi pati sa gawa.

NEWSBRIEFS

Not resigned

THE EXECUTIVE director of the controversial Special Presidential Task Force 156 yesterday denied reports that he has resigned. Alan Ventura, executive director of SPTF, said a news report on his resignation in a tabloid was the work of tax fraud syndicates who have resorted to black propaganda. The task force is investigating the multibillion tax credit fraud cases but has lately been under fire for allegedly bungling the tax cases. *Michelle V. Remo*

CBCP head goes to NY

THE ARCHDIOCESE of New York has tapped a Filipino archbishop known for advocating reconciliation to speak on Muslim-Christian relations in the country. Davao Archbishop Fernando Capalla, president of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, left for the United States Saturday night for a two-week series of talks. *Blanche S. Rivera*

P2.3B for E. Visayas

THE DEPARTMENT of Public Works and Highways yesterday said it would implement next year P2.3 billion worth of infrastructure projects in Eastern Visayas, one of the country's poorest regions. DPWH-Region 8 officer in charge Jaime Pacanan said P2.07 billion would be used as counterpart fund for foreign assisted projects and P297 million would finance locally funded public works projects. *Jerome Aning*

SC suspends court fees hike

THE SUPREME Court yesterday decided to suspend the increases on certain legal fees due to mounting protests from various sectors. The high court said in a press statement that it has suspended "until further orders" the new rates for the solemnization of marriages, the filing of motions, and the filing of compulsory counterclaims.

The tribunal said it made the move after the Integrated Bar of the Philippines' Board of Governors, some IBP chapters, and other sectors urged the court to stop the hikes in court fees, some of which increased by 4,000 percent. *Philip C. Tubeza*

DOJ upholds Aglipay term

THE DEPARTMENT of Justice has upheld the extension of the term of office of Philippine National Police Chief Edgar Aglipay. In a seven-page legal opinion dated Sept. 10, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez told the National Police Commission that Aglipay could even serve a PNP chief's full term of office of four years. Gonzalez said Aglipay should not be considered as compulsorily retired after he reached the mandatory retirement age of 56 on Sept. 13 because President Macapagal-Arroyo had promoted him to head the PNP. *Philip C. Tubeza*

Aussie antiterror teams in Asia

CANBERRA—Australia wants to base counterterrorism teams in Southeast Asia, including in Indonesia and the Philippines, the government said on Monday, as it laid out its security plan ahead of an Oct. 9 general election. Opposition Labor pledged to spend A$373 million ($260 million) to strengthen Australia's defense as the two parties argued over the best way to wage the war on terror. Prime Minister John Howard, whose conservative government has edged ahead of center-left Labor in opinion polls, said two teams of Australian police would fight terror at the source and stop it reaching Australia. He said the A$100 million plan would likely include Indonesia and the Philippines as bases. *Reuters*

RP sends team to Cayman Islands

THE DEPARTMENT of Foreign Affairs is sending a two-man team to Cayman Islands to assist in the evacuation of nearly 200 Filipinos and bring aid to 700 others who were displaced by Hurricane Ivan, acting Foreign Secretary Jose Brillantes said yesterday. He said overseas workers and their dependents numbering 900 had been displaced by the hurricane, which spawned massive flooding, caused power outages and damaged vital infrastructure in the islands last week. *TJ Burgonio*

Erap lawyers present witness in bid to demolish Chavit's credibility

By Armand N. Nocum

LAWYERS of ousted President Joseph Estrada yesterday made moves to demolish the credibility of prosecution star witness Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis Chavit Singson, whose revelations three years ago not only brought down Estrada, but landed him in jail.

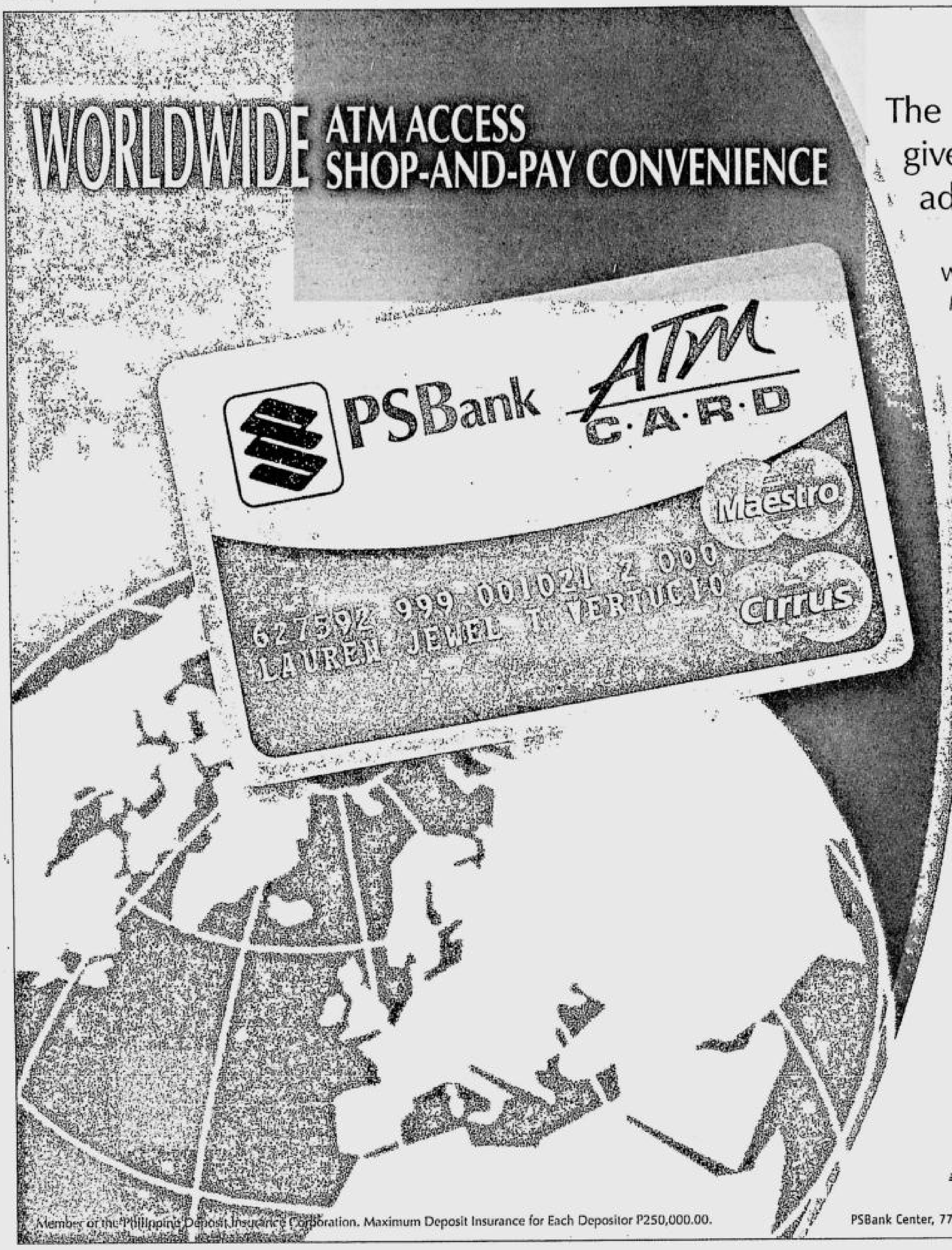
Defense lawyer Raymond Fortun presented lawyer Agaton Dacayanan, former provincial auditor of Ilocos Sur, who described Singson as a "demonstrably corrupt governor."

Dacayanan admitted having prepared a Commission on Audit report indicating that Singson had "unsettled cash advances" of P2.9 million as of Dec. 31, 1995.

During a break in the hearing, former senator and now defense lead counsel Rene Saguisag told reporters that Singson had amassed P800 million in unliquidated cash advances from 1995 to 1999.

"In late 2000, the COA was pressuring Chavit to account for the funds which included P130 million pesos in tobacco excise taxes. He was cornered so he decided to do a tell-all on Mr. Estrada," Saguisag said.

The P130 million kickback is one of the four predicate cases in the P4.1 billion plunder suit filed against Estrada before the Sandiganbayan.



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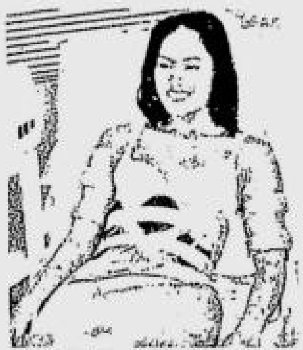

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Other GMA appointees

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday praised the incoming heads of government-owned and -controlled corporations (GOCCs) for agreeing to take a pay cut after leaving lucrative jobs in the private sector.

"I must acknowledge Rey David. Even if his market price is very high, he's taking a cut before he enters a GOCC," the President said during a mass oath-taking of her latest batch of appointees.

David was sworn in as president of the Development Bank of the Philippines. He was vice chair of the Export and Import Bank and vice president and treasurer of Citibank N.A.

David told reporters that he joined the government because it was time to give back to the people what they deserve."

The President did not say how much David would be getting at the DBP. His job is one of the highest paying among the GOCCs.

Others who took their oath were Sergio Valencia, chair of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office; former Sen. Ramon Revilla Sr., chair of the Public Estates Authority, and Federico Laxa, general manager of the National Housing Authority.

The other appointees were Finance Secretary Juanita Amatong; Tourism Secretary Joseph Ace Durano; presidential advisers Luis Lorenzo (jobs generation) and Rodolfo del Rosario (new government centers); Ma. Isabel Tobias, secretary general of the Council for Values Formation; Renato Ebarle, presidential assistant for Western Mindanao; Undersecretary Ruel Canobas of the Office of the Political Adviser; acting head Catherine Bello and Undersecretaries Carmencita La'O and Bernardino Sayo; Raul Tan, acting member of the Energy Regulatory Commission; and Director Vicente Vinarao of the Bureau of Corrections. *Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.*

Revilla named PEA chair

From page A1

experience ... would help him in his new job.

But Makati Business Club executive director Guillermo Luz said: "The government will always be accused of political accommodation."

"The best way to mitigate this is to be transparent in its selection process," Luz said.

He said a number of appointments were "difficult to understand."

"Some appointees are already [very old] and are considered retired," Luz said. "We have heard of a case where an appointee is in his 80s."

The appointment was announced not by Malacañang, but by Revilla himself who issued a statement yesterday afternoon.

Clueless

He was among 18 officials set to take their oath of office at 2 p.m. yesterday before Ms Arroyo.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye was initially clueless about the appointment.

"I have to check on that. I just learned that he had issued his own statement regarding his own appointment but we'll have to double-check it," Bunye said at his press briefing when he was asked about the date of the appointment.

When a list of the officials scheduled to take their oaths was passed to reporters by Press Undersecretary Isabel de Leon, Bunye said: "Is he included? OK, so it's confirmed."

The INQUIRER learned from the PEA that Revilla was appointed as early as Aug. 26.

In a statement distributed to reporters by his public relations officer Jerry Panela, Revilla thanked Ms Arroyo for "this chance to serve our countrymen."

Ho-hum performance

"This post compels me to make a difference," said Revilla, whose ho-hum performance in the Senate was highlighted by his laughable contribution to the aborted Senate impeachment trial of President Joseph Estrada.

REVILLA VAL HANDUMON

Revilla, a cockfighting aficionado, had risen to explain how one could tell how much a wad of cash was worth by weighing it.

"With God's grace and the professionalism of the PEA executives down to the rank and file, we will succeed and hopefully erase the PEA from the list of the Flagships of Corruption and do its fair share in contributing to the nation's coffers," he said in his statement.

Revilla said that reforms were already in place or being formulated and that he welcomed suggestions from anyone "who desires to nip graft and corruption in its roots."

"I also assure everyone that I am in peak condition and healthy enough to assume this role and will continue doing so, as long as I enjoy the President's confidence," he said.

Bypass, spinal surgery

He underwent spinal surgery twice in April 2002. In December that year, he suffered two mild strokes. In 1999, he had a triple heart bypass.

Revilla's colorful life includes his unabashed admission of siring as many as 70 children.

Teodorico Taguinod, PEA general manager and chief executive officer, welcomed Revilla's appointment to the agency's seven-member board.

Civil service rules allow public officials to serve only up to age 65, or 66 at most, but the PEA charter allows someone as old as Revilla to chair it, according to Taguinod.

Figurehead

He said presidential appointees were exempt from the age limit.

Revilla had already inspected his new office at the PEA headquarters in Makati City and met with the PEA officials several times.

But he expressed concern that he would be a mere figurehead in the PEA because the actual running of the agency would be handled by Taguinod.

Taguinod told Revilla that he could play the "vital role" of presiding over the board meetings and "guiding the board in the implementation of policies."

"We are a good combination, then," Revilla told Taguinod. "I have the stature and you are the technocrat." Taguinod agreed.

Revilla replaced former Public Works Secretary Simeon Datumanong, who took over as PEA chair when the President fired Ernest Villareal and other members of the board over the scandal involving the President Diosdado Macapagal Boulevard.

Road to perdition

In her "Ulat sa Bayan" in November 2002, Ms Arroyo ordered the abolition of PEA after a whistle-blower claimed that the P1.1-billion boulevard, named after her father, was overpriced by P600 million.

The asphalt road, which runs parallel to Roxas Boulevard in the reclaimed area of Manila Bay, was dubbed the most expensive road in the country. The media called the stretch the "road to perdition."

Twenty PEA officials and the private contractor, Jesusito Legaspi, were found liable for graft and charged.

Ms Arroyo later reversed her order abolishing the PEA. She recently removed the agency from the Office of the President, transferring it to the Department of Finance.

"I believe it will be geared toward a new direction and this will be operating as a Philippine Reclamation Authority. Something like that and it will not be involved in any other activity outside of that proposed operation," Bunye said.

The change of name and the watering down of the PEA's functions will likely face legal challenges.

PEA insiders said the President could not "amend" the agency's charter by executive power or by her power to reorganize agencies.

By Bunye's reckoning, the PEA would be "retooled to address a very particular activity," which is reclamation.

The PEA, which is among the wealthiest agencies, undertakes business ventures, "practically everything," including real estate development.

Tollway

It operates the Manila-Cavite Tollway, manages the P150-billion planned development of the Manila Bay reclamation area, and has built the offices of the Ombudsman, the Sandiganbayan, the Bureau of Internal Revenue regional district offices, among others.

Its "audited" assets stood at P25 billion as of December 2003. *With reports from Ronnel W. Domingo and Christine O. Avendaño*

IN THE KNOW

From page A1

lic or foreign entities, and exercise the right of eminent domain in the name of the Republic of the Philippines. It also has regulatory and proprietary functions.

It was under PEA's authority that more than 1,500 hectares were reclaimed in Manila Bay.

In September 2002, the INQUIRER published a series of exposés on alleged overpricing in the construction of the P1.1-billion President Diosdado Macapagal Boulevard in the Manila Bay reclamation area.

The 5.1-km asphalt road running parallel to Roxas Boulevard was allegedly overpriced by P600 million. This report led to a chain of investigations and the sacking of the agency's officers and directors.

On Nov. 30, 2002, President Macapagal-Arroyo ordered the abolition of the agency.

The alleged overpricing was one of the scandals that had rocked the agency.

In 1995, the agency was involved in the controversial deal with Amari Coastal Bay and Development Corp., which would have transferred 592.15 hectares of reclaimed land to a private company at virtually no cost. The deal was eventually nullified by the Supreme Court in 2002.

Four months after the President announced the PEA's abolition, the INQUIRER found that the agency and its officials were still very much in business, disbursing funds and dispensing perks for themselves.

The government suffered undue injury in the amount of P532,926,420.39, according to the Office of the Ombudsman which it approved in June 2003 the filing of graft charges against 20 officials of the PEA, six from the Commission on Audit, and the president of JD Legaspi Construction, which had bagged the contract for the controversial 2.3-km portion of the road.

The respondents from the PEA included members of its board of directors during the Estrada and Macapagal administrations. *PDI Research*

House body suspends hearings ...

From page A1

At the hearing, it didn't help that Finance Secretary Juanita Amatong said that the country was not in a fiscal crisis, contrary to what President Macapagal-Arroyo acknowledged last month.

"There is no fiscal crisis. We have fiscal problems but not in crisis proportions," Amatong said.

All hype

Rep. Abraham Mitra (LP, Palawan) noted that this meant that the government was merely using the supposed fiscal crisis to facilitate the passage of its proposed tax measures.

"It's all hype. There is no crisis after all," Mitra said.

An upset Andaya said: "The scenario in imposing the new taxes has been overplayed."

During the hearing, Andaya particularly zeroed in on the Department of Finance's continued failure to provide the House with the actual amount of the so-called contingent liabilities which are obligations incurred by government-owned and -controlled corporations (GOCCs), and by government financial institutions.

Contingent liabilities also include guarantees for build-operate-transfer projects, obligations to independent power producers, and other supposed off-budget items that the national government would eventually pay for.

Andaya noted that the House had been asking for these figures way before the May 2004 elections. At best, what he received was a sheet of paper that did not even bear official signatures.

"That is insulting to this committee. We have been asking about these contingent liabilities. Until you come up with these figures, we're suspending the budget hearings," Andaya said.

Window dressing

In an interview, Andaya said the government was withholding data in an apparent effort to window dress the budget deficit.

Asked if the government was hiding the data or had no exact accounting of the liabilities, Andaya said: "Both."

He said independent estimates placed the contingent liabilities at P3 trillion, which would eventually find its way into the national government deficit and indebtedness.

As of 2003, the total public sector debt stood at P5.8 trillion of which P3.8 trillion was owed by the national government. The remaining P2.6 trillion represented part of the contingent liabilities.

Flatfooted

At one point during the hearing, Andaya caught the DOF flatfooted in the case of the indebtedness of National Power Corp. (Napocor).

In the DOF presentation, the department said the debt of Napocor and 13 other monitored government corporations would go down from this year's P125.5 billion to P91.9 billion.

Upon questioning by Andaya, Amatong admitted that the difference of about P36 billion consisted of debt incurred by Napocor, which will be absorbed by the government next year.

But Andaya noted that the DOF failed to reflect the transfer of P36 billion to the projected consolidated public sector deficit (CPSD) for 2005.

The DOF said that from this year's P197.8-billion CPSD, the deficit would go down to P184.5 billion in 2005.

But as Andaya pointed out: "It should be P221 billion, not P184 billion. We're hiding P36 billion."

Rep. Luis Villafuerte (Kampi, Camarines Sur) demanded from the DOF a breakdown of the country's foreign indebtedness, saying the Arroyo administration had been unjustly blamed for the increase in the country's foreign debt.

"What is the carry-over from previous years? What are the fresh borrowings? Who has been responsible for the debt?" Villafuerte asked.

In the Senate, Senate President Franklin Drilon expressed hope that the passage of the proposed 2005 national budget would not be delayed following the move of the House to suspend budget deliberations.

Monthlong break

Drilon said that Congress would take a monthlong break after this week and that assuming the House would hold budget hearings during the break, the "earliest" the House could submit its committee report on the budget to the Senate would be Oct. 25.

"That means it will be toward the middle of November at the earliest when the debates are finished (in the Senate)," he told reporters.

But Drilon said it would take Congress more time to approve the budget if House members resorted to line item budgeting.

"So I do hope that this suspension will not mean that we will not be able to pass the budget by the end of the year," he said.

At the same time, Drilon asked President Macapagal-Arroyo's economic managers "to extend their full cooperation to both houses of Congress."

For his part, Sen. Manuel Villar Jr. asked the economic managers to fully cooperate with lawmakers deliberating the proposed 2005 national budget after House members suspended budget deliberations.

He said he hoped that the intention of the House was only to get more information from finance officials and not to have a reenacted budget again.

Villar, chair of the Senate finance committee, said that if the House suspension of the budget deliberations was meant to pave the way for the reenactment of the budget, he would oppose this.

The government is operating on a reenacted budget this year.

Militant lawmakers ...

From page A1

fears that their individual pork allocations for the rest of the year would be slashed to P10 million. "Grossly unfair," they had said, because other legislators would be getting P35 million in pork.

Representatives Satur Ocampo, Teodoro Casiño and Joel Virador of Bayan Muna, Crispin Beltran and Rafael Mariano of Anakpawis, and Liza Maza of Gabriela signed the petition despite previous statements that they were for the abolition of the graft-ridden pork barrel system.

On Monday, the six lawmakers belonging to the so-called progressive bloc issued a joint statement saying they were sorry for having signed the "Dear Speaker" letter.

"As to the controversial letter to Speaker De Venecia by a majority of party-list representatives, we regret that it has caused confusion as to our stand regarding the pork barrel," they said.

"We apologize for any misimpression that we may have inadvertently created by signing the letter together with other party-list representatives.

"We were mistaken in signing the letter in our desire to afford other party-list representatives an equal share in already allocated funds for the purpose."

The signatories expressed their "collective concern and resentment over the uneven and grossly unfair allocation of the PDAF [Priority Development Assistance Funds, the official name of the pork barrel] to some—if not most—of our colleagues in the party-list (bloc)."

Citing information from Camarines Sur Rep. Rolando Andaya Jr., chair of the House appropriations committee, they said some of them "may end up with only P10 million each for the last six months of fiscal year 2004, with the P25 million balance to be settled later."

Because the 13th Congress opened in July, House members are each entitled to only P35 million in pork allocation—not the full amount of P70 million each of them have been receiving annually.

Still for pork abolition

In their joint statement on Monday, Ocampo and his group said they "support all actions to eliminate the pork barrel in the budget."

"Funds saved by the abolition of the pork barrel must, however, not be waylaid for counterproductive and unworthy ends like servicing onerous loans, bankrolling the military budget or fueling more corruption and wastage of government resources," they said.

The influential Catholic Church and various sectors have urged legislators to give up their pork, which would save the government P20 billion a year, in the face of the current fiscal crisis. Each senator is allotted P200 million in pork every year.

Studies have shown that the pork barrel, which legislators use to finance pet projects, has been a source of kickbacks paid by favored contractors.

According Sen. Panfilo Lacson, as much as 60 percent of the cost of a PDAF infrastructure project ends up in the pockets of contractors, legislators and other public officials.

In an interview, Ocampo admitted that he and his colleagues in the Bayan Muna bloc had started submitting project proposals for the utilization of their respective pork barrel this year.

"We're just closing the year," he said, referring to the fund allocation to him and his Bayan Muna colleagues for the remainder of 2004.

To ease the fiscal deficit amid a public clamor for the abolition of the pork barrel, Malacañang cut by 40 percent the PDAF allocation of legislators in the proposed budget for 2005.

Bayan Muna conditions

Ocampo, however, said he and his colleagues were willing to give up their entire pork barrel allocations for next year as long as all legislators did the same and the executive branch removed from the proposed budget its lump-sum appropriations for discretionary funds.

He said that pork excised from the national budget should not be diverted for such expenditures as debt payments, but only for health and other social services.

An Aug. 30 statement by Bayan Muna read: "Ocampo ... categorically and confidently stated today that his group is for the scrapping of the current pork barrel system which is being exploited by selfish and partisan interests."

In a statement on Aug. 29, Ocampo declared: "Bayan Muna would confidently embrace a political setup without the pork barrel."

With a report from TJ Burgonio

Banks already burdened, says Angara

From page A1

mandate. We will see to it that all funds will be collected by the appropriate agencies," Bunye said.

BIR Commissioner Guillermo Parayno has given foreign and local banks up to Dec. 15 to settle their liabilities arising from the nonpayment of the gross receipts tax, documentary stamp tax and branch profit tax on their foreign currency deposit unit (FCDU) loans.

The BIR claimed that foreign and domestic banks had racked up P21 billion in unpaid taxes on FCDU loans and P17 billion in penalties over the last six years. Banks that settle their tax liabilities before Dec. 15 would be spared payment of the penalties.

Cesar Virata, the president of the Bankers Association of the Philippines, said the BAP had asked Senate President Franklin Drilon and Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. to convene the congressional oversight committee to clarify questions concerning the tax on FCDU loans.

The BAP earlier said the banks would contest the BIR's final tax assessment on FCDU loans in court, a move that could lead to a protracted legal battle. The BAP claimed that Congress had erred in lifting the tax exemption of the FCDUs and that it had not been able to correct this mistake.

But Sen. Manuel Villar Jr., chair of the Senate finance committee, said banks should pay the back taxes they owe the government in the face of the serious fiscal crisis.

"The banking community should take the lead in ensuring that the country's finances would be run smoothly," Villar told reporters.

Aside from going after back taxes, President Macapagal-Arroyo has also certified as urgent House Bill No. 2933 which seeks to grant a one-time amnesty on all unpaid taxes up to 2003.

Ms Arroyo has given top priority to the tax amnesty bill "to meet the public emergency borne out of the urgent need to creatively mobilize revenue resources in the immediate term to fund the government's economic and social programs."

She is hoping that the tax amnesty will in the long term "instill upon the general citizenry, particularly among the errant taxpayers, the value of civil responsibility by providing them an option to make a truthful and faithful disclosure of their untaxed incomes or adjust their statements of assets and net worth." *Reports from Christine O. Avendaño and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.*

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Fil-Am general gets hero's welcome in Pangasinan

By Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

SORIANO: Emotional homecoming for a native son who left for the US when he was only six. TOOTS SOBERANO/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

ALCALA, Pangasinan—After 50 years in his adoptive country, US Army Lt. Gen. Edward Soriano came home to a hero's welcome from relatives and town mates.

"This is an emotional homecoming for me," Soriano, 56, told reporters on Sunday during a dinner with local officials.

"It's a real treat to see my relatives again," he said, but admitted having difficulty recalling their names and faces. "In all honesty I don't (remember them anymore). It's been a long time."

Soriano was only six years old when he left for the United States 50 years ago to join his mother Encarnacion and his father Federico, a captain in the US Army.

In all this time, he never visited, never communicated with relatives, according to his cousin Betty Legaspi, 61.

"*May kaunting tampo kami* (We feel a little bad)," she said, "but we're excited to see him back."

Legaspi and the clan happily threw a party in his honor. They served boneless *bangus* and native cakes for him and his wife Vivien. They also cooked *pinakbet*, a dish Soriano relished even in the US, his cousin Amelia Monteclaro said.

Soriano also toured the poblacion area of Alcala, noting that the town looked progressive, with its population of almost 36,000 people.

He confessed he only had a vague recollection of the town, having left it at a very young age, but said he found it exciting to "see all these wonderful people."

On Sunday night, a testimonial program was held in his honor and a plaque of appreciation as outstanding son of Alcala was presented to him by Mayor Manuel Collado and Vice Mayor Clemente Arboleda.

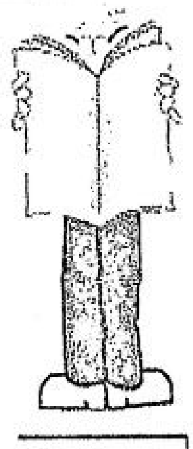
There was a festive atmosphere in the town hall as residents entertained the "pride of Alcala" with dances and songs.

"I hope (to visit again) some time, but I'm still in the US Army," he said.

Soriano was in the country "on an official business," having been invited by Gen. Narciso Abaya, chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

"I played host to General Abaya and his wife and a delegation from the AFP. In turn, he invited me to come and visit so we could discuss military matters," he said. "Since I was here, it was also an opportunity for me to see (Alcala)."

Earlier, Soriano was in Baguio City, where the cadet corps of the Philippine Military Academy gave him a testimonial parade and review during his visit to Fort Del Pilar. Afterwards, he held a closed-door dialogue with PMA officials and cadets. *With a report from Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*



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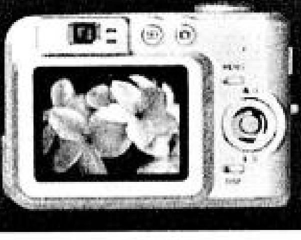

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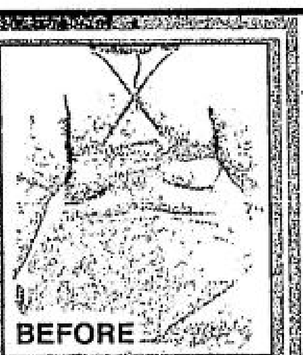

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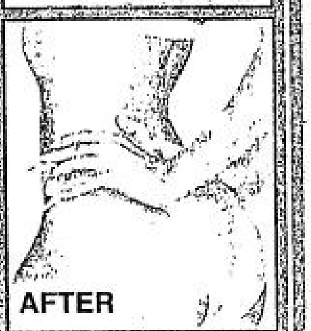

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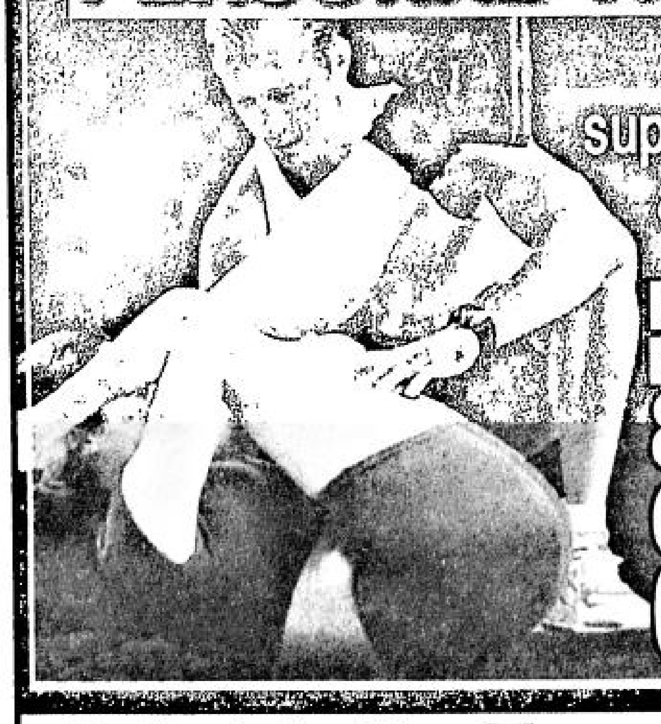

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Senators reject fiscal plan, say economy will contract

From page A1

higher power rates on the economy would be marginal at best.

He said it was deduced during the hearing that revenues to be generated by the new taxes and higher power rates would be used for debt payment, so it would not have any direct effect on economic growth.

Finance Undersecretary Nieves Osorio and Santos said new taxes and higher power rates would raise P153 billion in additional revenues for the government.

Should Congress reject the reform package, a fiscal crisis would result in P700 billion to P1 trillion in lost income over the next two to three years, according to Raul Fabella, dean of the UP School of Economics.

"We'd like to say that our economy has a long romance with economic crisis," Fabella said.

"The other side of it is what if we do nothing? We let the fiscal crisis bomb explode in our faces," he said.

Fabella urged the joint committee to adopt the plan so that the losses would be limited to about P150 billion.

Staggered implementation

Summarizing the positions of Osorio, Santos and Fabella, Roxas said: "So in two to three years, if we won't do anything, it will become unsustainable."

Roxas, however, noted that the stand of Febella and the other UP professors was for a staggered implementation of the proposed eight new tax measures contrary to the all-or-nothing stand of fiscal managers.

Quoting Fabella, he said the UP professors suggested that what should be implemented during the first year of reform was the indexation of the so-called sin taxes and higher Napocor rates.

Still, Roxas said the burden of proof rested on the DOF and Neda to substantiate their projections.

Essentially nothing

"Their assumption is that whatever money raised by new tax measures as well as by the increase in National Power Corp. (Napocor) rates will be used to pay the debt. Meaning, they will (be used to fund items in the) national budget, to be used for the operations of government."

In this simulation, he said the impact on the economy was marginal, or "essentially nothing" because the additional revenues from taxpayers would not be used to pump prime the economy.

Roxas noted that Neda based its proposed reform package on the following assumptions—government's efficiency in using money compared to consumers and the stable consuming habits of Filipinos.

Dismayed

"That's one big assumption that is not shared by many committee members. Government has not proven itself to be a much more efficient or productive user of funds than those who earned these themselves," he said.

The senators asked Osorio and Santos to go back to the drawing board.

Roxas said that members of the joint committee were dismayed over the failure of the DOF and Neda to convince them about the wisdom of imposing new taxes and raising electricity rates.

"We've asked them to present additional information. We also asked finance to refine and amend the fiscal plan," he said.

Instead of blindly implementing the administration's road map to economic recovery, senators suggested that the fiscal managers take into consideration the recommendations of various sectors on adopting anti-smuggling measures, expanding the coverage of the value added tax (VAT) instead of increasing it, and conducting studies on consumption behavior should the new taxes be implemented.

Sen. Ramon Magsaysay said the government only collected P135 billion of the P276 billion targeted collection for VAT, for a shortfall of 52 percent.

Magsaysay said the government should look at the loopholes before imposing new tax measures.

"Our tax collection must be like a laser-rifle approach and not a shotgun blast approach if we are to improve our fiscal standing. Accuracy is a paramount concern," he said.

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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Tuesday, September 21, 2004
Matthew, Apostle & Evangelist

1st Reading: Eph 4:1-7, 11-13
Gospel: Mt 9:9-13

As Jesus moved on, he saw a man named Matthew at his seat in the custom-house, and he said to him, "Follow me." And Matthew got up and followed him. Now it happened, while Jesus was at table in Matthew's house, many tax collectors and other sinners joined Jesus and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this they said to his disciples, "Why is it that your master eats with those sinners and tax collectors?"

When Jesus heard this he said, "Healthy people do not need a doctor, but sick people do. Go and find out what this means: What I want is mercy, not sacrifice. I did not come to call the righteous but sinners."

Commentary

St. Augustine thinks Matthew wasn't called at the same time as the others because he had some financial matters to finish off. But a 6th-century writer took it that Matthew left his affairs in disorder, a thing that greatly impressed him. It must be particularly difficult for someone who deals with figures to leave them unbalanced. Do we have to balance our books before we set out on the Gospel path?

Matthew wrote his gospel to convince Jews that Jesus was the fulfillment of their prophecies. Sixteen times in his gospel he uses the phrase "so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled." He sees Jesus through the lens of the Old Testament: in him are fulfilled all the hopes of the Jewish people. In view of this conviction, his tax-gathering papers must have seemed very unimportant. Financial matters are so precise and so tangible and near… His must have been a powerful conversion, because he had been in the service of Mammon, God's greatest rival. "You cannot serve God and Mammon," Jesus said (Mt 6:24; Lk 16:13).

Business people tend to be hard-headed, and perhaps his conversion took a little longer. St. John Chrysostom (5th century) suggested that "Matthew was not called at the same time as Peter and John and the others because he was then still in a hardened state." He was more used to handling hard cash than human aspiration.

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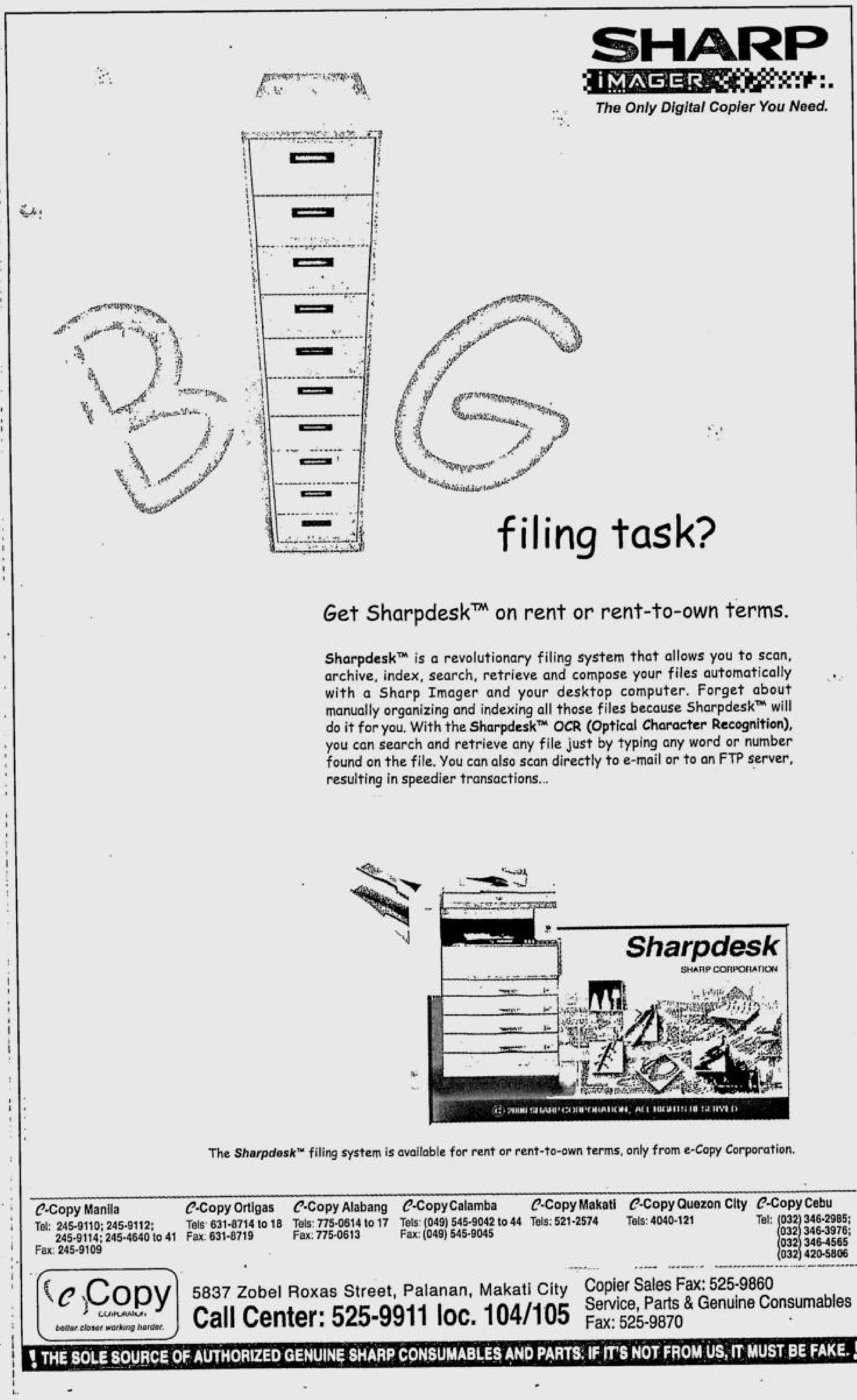
SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

CRIMINAL LAW (AGGRAVATING CIRCUMSTANCES)—Treachery—The trial court correctly convicted the appellant of murder, qualified by treachery under Article 248 of the Revised Penal Code. There is treachery in the commission of the crime when (a) at the time of the attack, the victim was not in a position to defend himself; (b) the offender consciously and deliberately adopted the particular means, method and form of attack employed by him. In the present case, after a drinking spree, the victim and his friends were walking towards home when suddenly, the appellant came out from nowhere, armed with a knife. Without any warning, the appellant stabbed the victim on the vital parts of his body, ensuring the latter's immediate death. Thus, the appellant killed the victim in a treacherous manner. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Callejo, Sr., Second Division, People vs Marcelo, G. R. No. 140385, April 14, 2004]

BY R. B. VERA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Second Draw	: October 8, 2004 (Friday)	- cut-off dates: July 1 to September 30, 2004
Third Draw	: November 12, 2004 (Friday)	- cut-off dates: July 1 to October 31, 2004
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3rd Draw	- 1 winner of ₱500,000.00, tax-free, to be applied to the principal balance.*

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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Death deadlines hang over Iraq hostages

BAGHDAD—A deadline set by militants who have threatened to behead two Americans and a Briton seized in Iraq was due to expire on Monday, and more than two dozen other hostages were also facing death unless rebel demands were met.

A group linked to Jordanian militant Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, who Washington says is its top foe in Iraq, said in video footage posted on the Internet on Saturday it would slit the throats of the Americans and Briton unless all Iraqi female prisoners were released from Abu Ghraib and Umm Qasr jails.

The families of the men—Americans Eugene Armstrong and Jack Hensley and Briton Kenneth Bigley—have appealed for their release. The men were seized from their house in Baghdad on Thursday by a group of gunmen.

The US military says no women are being held in the two prisons mentioned by the kidnappers. It says two women are in US custody. Dubbed "Dr. Germ" and "Mrs. Anthrax" by US forces, they are accused of working on Saddam Hussein's weapons programs and are in a prison for high-profile detainees.

Zarqawi's Tawhid and Jihad group has claimed responsibility for most of the bloodiest suicide bomb attacks in Iraq since the fall of Saddam Hussein, and has already beheaded several hostages including US telecommunications engineer Nicholas Berg in May and South Korean driver Kim Sun-il in June.

The group released Filipino captive Angelo de la Cruz in July after Manila bowed to its demands to pull its troops out.

The United States has offered $25 million for information leading to the death or capture of Zarqawi, and has launched a series of air strikes on his suspected hideouts in Fallujah.

Seven Westerners are among dozens of people being held hostage in Iraq. Two French journalists were seized a month ago, and two female Italian aid workers were kidnapped in broad daylight in central Baghdad earlier this month.

A statement purportedly from the group holding the French said at the weekend they were no longer captives but had agreed to stay with the group for some time to cover its activities.

The authenticity of the statement could not be verified.

Another group has threatened to kill 10 workers from a US-Turkish firm unless the company that employs them stopped doing business in Iraq within three days. Most of the workers seized are believed to be Turkish. *Reuters*

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Ex-general seen unseating Megawati

JAKARTA—Indonesia on Monday peacefully completed landmark polls expected to replace President Megawati Sukarnoputri with a retired general as leader of the world's largest Muslim-populated country.

Megawati faced her former security minister Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono in the presidential run-off, a milestone in Indonesia's sometimes violent transition to democracy since the fall of dictator Suharto in 1998.

Security was tight for the country's first direct presidential vote, which came 11 days after a suicide bomber killed nine people outside the Australian Embassy—Indonesia's third major Islamic extremist attack in two years.

But the last of three elections this year in the archipelago of 18,000 islands seemed to pass without trouble, marking another step forward for a country that has often witnessed turbulent transfers of power.

Just hours after voting ended at 1 p.m. Sunday, early results put Yudhoyono in front with 57.4 percent of 987,369 votes counted compared to Megawati's 42.5 percent.

A clearer picture was not expected until later Monday with a "quick count" by Indonesian think tank LP3S and the US-based National Democratic Institute, which has produced accurate predictions in previous elections this year.

A full count will take weeks as polls from more than 150 million eligible voters are tallied across far-flung islands.

Yudhoyono is widely expected to sweep the election. He consistently scored nearly double the support for Megawati in opinion polls taken since a July 5 first-round vote that saw the former general emerge as frontrunner.

With little to distinguish the candidates' broad policies on economic reform, tackling corruption and improving security, the presidential race has largely become a personality contest favoring Yudhoyono.

The retired general was among the first to vote at a polling station in his village of Cikeas south of Jakarta.

"With the assumption that there will be no violations in the counting of the ballots, I do believe, God willing, that I can win this election," he said, thumbs raised in the air, after casting his vote.

Yudhoyono is at ease in front of the cameras and has shown himself a smooth operator in public, endearing him to many in the country where half the people survive on less than $2 a day.

In contrast Megawati has been struggling to shake off a reputation as an aloof and uncaring leader, losing support among the country's impoverished "little people."

Voting near her private residence in south Jakarta, a typically reticent Megawati arrived several hours after balloting began. Scores of people who turned out to see her were kept waiting.

Asked if she was confident of victory, Megawati only said: "Yes."

Analysts say Yudhoyono's pedigree as an ex-military man, who led operations to capture Islamic extremists blamed for the October 2002 Bali bombings and an August 2003 strike on Jakarta's Marriott hotel, may also help his prospects.

But they warn that Megawati, daughter of founding president Sukarno, cannot be written off—particularly after the endorsement of a powerful four-party political alliance headed by Suharto's former party Golkar.

Among the first to vote, Wayan Surapha on the resort island of Bali said he was backing Megawati. "Mega has been good at recovering our economy. She deserves to be the next president."

Another voter, computer businessman Mahyudin, 30, said he had picked Yudhoyono in what he called a vote for reform.

"It's not that I'm not satisfied (with Megawati) but she has deficiencies," he said after voting in Kebagusan, near Megawati's private Jakarta residence.

Among voters turning out was a frail Suharto, who visited a polling station in a Jakarta suburb supported by a walking cane and family members.

Suharto, 83, who has escaped trial for graft because of ill health, has lived quietly at home since stepping down in May 1998 amid a crippling economic crisis and massive civil unrest.

INDONESIA'S President Megawati Sukarnoputri (left) walks with challenger Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono before the start of a Cabinet meeting in a June 27, 2002 photo. AP

Australian Prime Minister John Howard hailed Monday's elections as a triumph for Indonesia's emergence as a democratic nation.

"It's a magnificent tribute to the people of Indonesia that the democratic process is working. I admire the fortitude of the Indonesians in the changes that they have made." *AFP*

Iran rejects UN nuke calls, may block checks

TEHRAN—A defiant Iran Sunday rejected a resolution by the UN atomic watchdog calling for a halt to sensitive nuclear work and threatened to block tough inspections if the issue was referred to the Security Council.

"Iran will not accept any obligations concerning the suspension of enrichment," Iran's top nuclear official Hassan Rowhani said after the International Atomic Energy Agency called for a halt to uranium enrichment-related activities.

The IAEA resolution adopted in Vienna Saturday also set a Nov. 25 deadline for a full review of Tehran's nuclear activities.

Although Rowhani appeared to reject the resolution, he said Iran could accept a suspension "through negotiations" and if it was a "voluntary decision."

But he also warned Iran would halt its application of a key safeguards treaty if the nuclear dossier was referred to the UN Security Council, as sought by the United States.

The Islamic regime insists its nuclear program is strictly aimed at generating electricity, despite suspicions particularly in the US it is seeking to develop nuclear weapons.

Iran signed the additional protocol to the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty last December, but parliament has yet to ratify it. The text obliges Iran to accept tougher inspections, including short-notice visits to even undeclared facilities. *AFP*

Britney does it again, ties knot for 2nd time this year

POP SINGER Britney Spears is shown in a wedding gown as she sings at the 2003 MTV Video Music Awards in New York in an Aug. 28, 2003 photo. REUTERS

LOS ANGELES—Pop star Britney Spears tied the knot for the second time this year, marrying a dancer who has toured with the blonde bombshell, US celebrity media reported Sunday.

Spears, 22, wearing a white strapless dress, married 26-year-old boyfriend and back-up dancer Kevin Federline late Saturday during a private ceremony at a friend's home in Studio City, California, Entertainment Tonight (ET) reported on its website.

After the wedding, which was attended by between 20 and 30 guests, the newlyweds dined on chicken fingers and ribs as music blared from a boombox, ET reported.

Spears, whose hits include "Baby One More Time," "Oops!...I Did It Again" and "I'm A Slave 4 U," shocked the pop world in January when she married childhood friend Jason Alexander during a spontaneous ceremony in Las Vegas, Nevada.

The marriage lasted 55 hours before the pair obtained an annulment.

By marrying Federline, Spears will become the stepmother of his 2-year-old daughter Kori and newborn baby Moesha. The children's mother is actress Shar Jackson, of the television show "Moesha."

Spears had announced her plan to marry the dancer in June. A wedding was scheduled for mid-October, according to the celebrity press.

The provocative singer was "beaming" and laughing after leaving the wedding with her new husband early Sunday, ET said.

Syndicated television show "Access Hollywood" reported that relatives were surprised by the wedding.

Show reporters were with Spears mother, Lynn, and the star's younger sister, Jamie Lynn, Saturday afternoon "as they got ready for what they believed to be an engagement dinner," according to the show website.

According to Star Magazine, Spears wore a long veil and tiara, and she carried a bouquet of pink and white roses. Her groom wore a black tuxedo, while the five bridesmaids and a maid of honor wore burgundy and carried red roses.

Federline gave the pop star a platinum band, and Spears gave her new love a platinum ring with diamonds, according to Star. *AFP*

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Question of the Week

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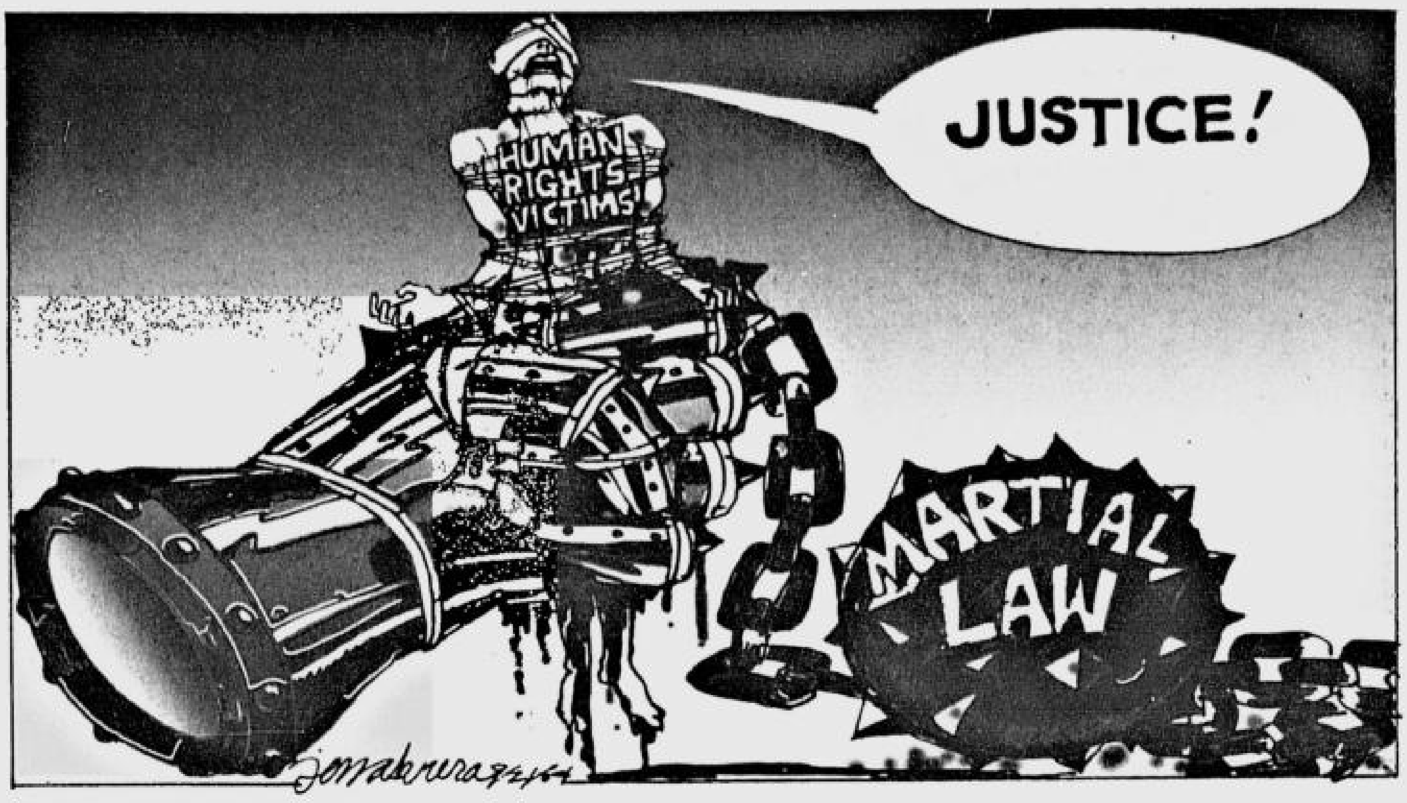

Monumental plunder

EDITORIAL

THE NATION remembers today with great sadness and anger the 32rd anniversary of the declaration of martial law by President Ferdinand E. Marcos. Sadness and anger, because the fiscal crisis that the nation is facing today has its roots in the complete mess that Marcos made of the economy during his dictatorial rule.

Marcos, his relatives, cronies and friends thoroughly plundered the economy. The exact extent of the Marcos plunder may never be known, but estimates of the money he stole range from a low of $5 billion to a high of $35 billion. Think of how much good the stolen money could have done had it been used to establish industries, construct infrastructure or provide essential social services.

Marcos' systematic sacking of the economy is detailed in "The Politics of Plunder" written by UP Prof. Belinda Aquino. She said that among the ways used by the Marcos clique to accumulate ill-gotten wealth were the takeover of large corporations; creation of state monopolies for vital sections of the economy such as sugar, coconuts and tobacco; award of loans to private individuals; use of offshore dummy companies to "launder" money; extracting kickbacks from companies doing business in the Philippines; skimming of foreign loans; direct raiding of the public treasury; and "salting" of dollars abroad.

Foreign loans were a rich source of funds for Marcos. When he was first elected president in 1966, the Philippines' debt stood at just under $1 billion. When he fled the country in 1986, the total had soared to more than $28 billion. Most of the money went into the pockets of the Marcoses and their cronies.

The unprecedented level of foreign debt left by Marcos is like a millstone around the neck of the Filipino nation, preventing it from attaining a faster pace of development. Every year, about a third of the national budget goes to the payment of debts.

One of the biggest of the dictatorship's odious debts was the $2.3 billion it borrowed to build the Bataan Nuclear Power Plant. Filipino taxpayers are now paying $155,000 (about P8.7 million) a day in interest on a structure that has not produced even one watt of power.

When Marcos first ran for president, one of his announced aims was to dismantle the oligarchic structure of Philippine society. When he became president, and especially during the martial law years, he replaced the old oligarchy with the new. Relatives and friends of the Conjugal Dictators were given access to capital and credit based not on their ability to pay but on their closeness to the First Family.

The government actively intervened in all sectors of the economy. The private sector was closely regulated through executive orders and presidential decrees. The national economy was opened to foreign investments with the offer of many incentives, including cheap labor, access to local loan sources, tax and non-tax incentives and liberal profit repatriation schemes. The government's income policy cheapened the price of labor and reduced farmers' incomes.

The economic policy of the dictatorship, which was export-oriented and gave preferential treatment to foreign investors, increased the alien domination of the economy. The poor became poorer. While Marcos was in power, the population increased by 12 million, from 38 million in 1965 to about 50 million in 1983. During the same period the number of Filipinos living below the poverty line increased by 17 million, from 18 million in 1965 (48 percent of the population) to 35 million in 1983 (70 percent of the population).

Even the current problem with the government-operated and -controlled corporations has its roots during the Marcos dictatorship. Accounting for 2.5 percent of the gross national product in 1972, they grew in number as well as in size to a 10.5 percent share of the GNP in 1983. Most of the GOCCs have failed and frittered away public resources. They have even mortgaged the future, imposing a huge public debt on the people.

It is clear that the Marcos dictatorship plundered and destroyed the economy. Justice demands that the government continue its efforts to recover every peso of the money stolen by the Marcoses from the people. Especially in these critical times, every amount recovered will help shore up the crumbling finances of the government.

On the occasion of declaration of martial law every year, the people must be reminded of the monumental plunder of the economy by the Marcoses. Never again should we allow a similar thing to happen to our country.

Treading fine lines

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

"WHILE editor, Sukarno and Suharto jailed you," the late publisher Joaquin "Chino" Roces told the tall Indonesian seated next to him. "What would you advise us?"

The Press Foundation of Asia boardroom fell silent. Outside, the *siyam-siyam* monsoon poun-ded the city. Inside, the talk swirled around impending governance by bayonets. Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile's fake ambush to trigger Proclamation 1081 was only days away.

"First, be friendly with your guards," came Magsaysay Awardee Mochtar Lubis' measured reply. "Second, keep busy. Third, don't let prison embitter you."

Thirty-two years later, with detention behind us, I'd add: Sign a power of attorney for the wife. It will smooth things for her.

These flashbacks recur when the day dictatorship began rolls around. Today is the 32nd anniversary of that imposition.

Wherever held, columnist Ellen Goodman says, these rights are about the fine line we tread to honor a difficult past. These observances are about "the moral costs of both forgetting and remembering."

We fear papering over "searing moments that did injustice to lives that were lost or forever changed" by brutal rulers, Goodman asserts in her Boston Globe column. Does remembering with undiminished intensity over time make us "curators of our ancestors' grievances? Can we acknowledge the past, and honor it, without being trapped in it?"

Do memories of rattling, in a prison van from Camp Crame to the Marcos Supreme Court, embalm in greying journalists "sterile baggage of the past"?

Among newsmen crammed into a "Black Maria" then were Daily Mirror's Amando Doronila, Evening News' Luis Beltran, Philippine News Service's Manuel Almario, Graphic's Luis Mauricio and Taliba's Benny Esquivel.

In court, our pro bono lawyer Joker Arroyo told us of a habeas corpus challenge (GR L33537 to 73). The self-effacing National Press Club president Eddie Monteclaro sued on our behalf.

Sen. Benigno Aquino and others followed shortly.

Sen. Lorenzo Tañada, Sedfrey Ordonez, Joker and others were there for the Fort Bonifacio detainees. Summoned before the tribunal a day earlier were Sen. Jose Diokno, Free Press' Teodoro Locsin Sr. and Napoleon Rama, and Chino Roces, among others.

It took guts to sue then. Few would, as Henry V said, "stiffen the sinews, summon up the blood/disguise fair nature with hard-favored rage." Provoking the dictator's anger resulted in drastic reprisals.

Manila Chronicle's Primitivo Mijares did not live to tell about it. So, many played it safe. Daily Express and Kanlaon Broadcasting censored reports of the habeas corpus hearings.

"Whenever press freedom has been permitted, Filipinos have defended it with passion," David Rosenberg writes in "Marcos and Martial Law in the Philippines." "Whenever it has been prohibited, they complied... with obsequiousness."

"No other case of such transcendental significance to the life of the nation [has] confronted this Court," Chief Justice Querube Makalintal wrote in September 1974, two years after justices dawdled on the issue. Marcos sidetracked the case by piecemeal releases, rendering most suits "moot."

Were the justices cowed? Was it safer—and more rewarding—to play ball? Compromise on the king's plan to divorce the queen and wed Anne Boleyn, Henry VIII's adviser badgered Thomas Moore. "Think carefully Master Moore. Do not provoke the king. *Indignatio principis mortuus est* (The prince's anger is death)."

An unruffled Moore replied: "Is that all, my lord? What that means is: I will die today and you will die tomorrow."

In his last speech, Benigno Aquino wrote: "It is ironic...that the Supreme Court, last April, ruled it can no longer entertain habeas corpus petitions for persons detained under presidential commitment orders. [This] covers all so called national security cases and, under present circumstances, can cover almost anything."

This was Aug. 21, 1983, a year short of Orwell's cutoff point. Before Aquino could read his arrival statement, he was gunned down. *Indignatio principis mortuus est.*

"We don't want to transmit all burdens of the past," Columbia University's Carol Gluck says. To heal trauma, historian Gluck offers three R's: remembrance, reflection and responsibility. Do we meet those standards?

Remembrance: "There's no excuse for sending the past down memory hole." But eight out of every 10 Filipino students today know nothing of martial law. What can be recalled from a black hole? But it can be shoveled full with distortions. Martial law was "the most democratic period" in our history, Imelda says.

Reflection: Think through what really happened. From his prison, Sen. Jose Diokno wrote in December 1972 that we "must determine what led to this madness and how, when it ends, it need never happen again."

Responsibility: "We must take responsibility for the past and therefore the present and the future." Has anybody gone to jail? Has loot been returned? Did anybody apologize?

Ferdinand Marcos Jr. snapped: "Why should we apologize? All they want is the money."

No, wonder the fourth "R"—reconciliation—never materialized. In "The Book of Laughter and Forgetting," Milan Kundera notes: "The only reason people want to be masters of the future is to change the past."

* * *

(E-mail: juan_mercado@pacific.net.ph)

Never again?

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

CAN it happen again?

Well, let's look again at some of the things that made martial law possible on Sept. 21, 1972.

First, there was someone who was willing to up the ante on rule-breaking and take enormous risks to make a bid for absolute power. That was Ferdinand Marcos who showed his true colors when he was still a young man by assassinating his father's political enemy, Julio Nalundasan, with a sniper's bullet. And who showed he would not be deterred by scruples by lying through his teeth at every opportunity. Chief of them was opposing Philippine involvement in Vietnam while he was still senator (and GMA's father, Diosdado Macapagal, was president), and promptly doing so when he came into Malacañang in 1965.

Second, there was American support for martial law. Independence in 1946 notwithstanding, this is a country whose political future has been shaped by the American will. At least it cannot go far astray of its political parameters without White House consent. The consent, or indeed active support, for martial law was given by Richard Nixon and Henry Kissinger, the US president and secretary of state, respectively, architects of US support for iron-fisted rule in the Third World. Several months after they propped up Marcos, they engineered a coup in Chile, which led to the murder of its democratic president, Salvador Allende, and his replacement by a thug named Augusto Pinochet.

Third, there was tacit public acceptance, if not embrace, of martial law. The business community, chief of them foreign investors, certainly applauded it, alarmed by the rallies that were getting more strident by the day and finding in dictatorial rule the ideal conditions for making business, namely one that guaranteed low wages and high profit. The only time they would complain was when Marcos started stealing from them.

Neither did the public generally resist it. This was a country that teemed with poverty in 1972, no small thanks to a procession of leaders that perpetuated plutocracy, or "oligarchy," as Marcos himself referred to it, forgetting his own contribution to entrenching it. "Sakada" was more than a word, it was the epitome of destitution. Rightly so: The sugarcane workers lived in conditions that evoked a time other than the 20th century. It was a throwback to the days of feudal servitude,, where the lords of the manor did not just own land, they owned people. There was at least little public resistance to martial law, which greatly embittered the opposition, chief of them Ninoy Aquino, who had expected the populace to erupt in rage at the rape of democracy. Quite simply, the poor were willing to pay to see whether things would not turn out the better for them, getting food in lieu of freedom. Pay they did, and dearly.

Lastly, there was tremendous instability and uncertainty. This was a time of ferment, groups and ideologies competing for power, amid a bleak economic horizon. This was also a time of unparalleled political violence. More than a year before September 1972, on Aug. 21, 1971, the opposition was decimated by a bomb that exploded in a campaign rally. A couple of months before martial law, the nation saw a flood of biblical proportions, which lasted for nearly a couple of months, and turned Central Luzon, the country's rice bowl, into a watery waste. Then a month or so before Marcos declared martial law, Greater Manila (as it was called then) was gripped by a series of bombings, much of it attributed to Marcos himself.

Five or so years ago, I was confident these conditions would never be replicated. Certainly not nearly enough to make another round of martial law, or authoritarian rule whatever guise it took, possible. I am not so sure today.

The one thing I had not counted on coming back, and so soon, was American support for iron-fisted rule in the globe. This was especially so after the US went on a staunch prodemocracy binge that not only rid the Philippines of Marcos—Ronald Reagan found himself increasingly isolated in his position that Marcos was not just part of the problem, he was part of the solution; his aides, particularly in the State Department, argued that Marcos was just the problem, period—but the world pretty much of communism. The late 1980s and early 1990s in particular were halcyon days in this respect, leading to the fall of the Berlin Wall and the dissolution of the Soviet Union.

With rugged capitalism triumphant in the mid-1990s—enough for Fidel Ramos, a staunch believer, to exhort the public to forget politics entirely and think Philippines 2000—I thought the final nail on US support for openly tyrannical rule had been driven into the coffin.

Not by a mile, as it turned out. 9/11 merely gave George W. Bush the excuse to restore it, and with a vengeance. Bush and Donald Rumsfeld are the modern-day versions of Nixon and Kissinger. They are equally vicious and ruthless, if not more so. They have certainly raised the stakes on carving the world after their image, opting for direct intervention, or outright invasion, rather than supporting tyrants who would stamp the imperial will upon their societies. Completely uncannily, they even have their own Vietnam to match that of Nixon and Kissinger. That is Iraq, where the US body bag has been mounting: A couple of weeks ago, it went past the 1,000th mark.

I am not a very superstitious man, but it's enough to make you believe Bush will be reelected, too. Nixon was, only to lose the presidency by impeachment some years later.

But if GMA should contemplate draconian rule, she will not find Bush and Rumsfeld deaf to entreaty. Assuming of course they are still around after November. And assuming they do not find an outright military cabal more preferable.

(To be concluded.)

Agog over extra-virgin coconut oil

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

HOUSE appropriations chair. Rep. Rolando Andaya, explained the current fiscal problem well when he said in yesterday's Philippine Star that the interest payments on government debts, amounting to P301.7 billion, will get the lion's share (33.3 percent) of the 2005 national budget of P907 billion. He likened this item to a sumo wrestler who elbows out his "lean cousins": social services which eats up 32 percent, and the internal revenue allotments (IRA) for LGUs that get 16.7 percent of the national budget. These three items, said Andaya, account for 82 percent of the budget and are fixed in that they are "off-limits" to alteration (unlike salaries of government personnel which can be reduced by trimming down jobs).

* * *

These fixed items may be better appreciated in the light of the government's twin problems as articulated by Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin at our recent dzRH program: the budget deficit and government debt service. As I understood from Boncodin, because debt service eats up one-third of the budget, it is imperative to raise revenues to service them and so the administration is asking Congress to pass eight badly needed revenue measures. Since Boncodin's difficult task is to allocate the scarce resources to the different government agencies, she admits she is "at the mercy" of the Bureaus of Customs and Internal Revenue. She stressed that efforts are being exerted to fix existing tax structures, and she considers very laudable the tax mapping the BIR is doing under Commissioner Willy Parayno. A tax map is very much like a city map where targets are identified, showing which individual and corporate taxpayers are not paying or paying the wrong amount of taxes.

* * *

Our PDI colleague, Winnie Monsod, wrote recently about the miracle product everyone's talking about these days: extra-virgin coconut oil. She cited researches in Bruce Fife's book, "The Healing Miracles of Coconut Oil," which said this oil reduces risks of atherosclerosis, cancer and other degenerative conditions; helps controls diabetes and osteoporosis; supports immune system functions and metabolic functions, and a host of other wonderful attributes. And she raised the logical question: What are government authorities, led by the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA), doing to promote coconut oil once again and counter the intense campaign to promote other oils?

* * *

By a happy coincidence, at our dzRH program two Sundays ago, Cecile Alvarez had invited former PCA Chair Joe Romero and PCA's current administrator, Danilo Coronacion, precisely to discuss the many wonderful developments related to the lowly coconut. Earlier I wrote about the report of Romero regarding the positive findings of a Georgetown University Hospital group led by Dr. Harry Preuss on the link between the monolauric element in the coconut and strengthening of the human immune system. This in turn drew a response from Dr. Vermen Verallo-Rowell of Makati Medical Center's dermatology department about how we are definitely ahead of the US in researches on the health-options found in the lowly coconut. Dr. Conrado Dayrit has pioneered the research on this.

* * *

PCA's Coronacion affirmed all the healthy attributes reported by Romero, including the fact that the coconut has the lowest cholesterol among plants and that lauric acid is most potent in the two-year-old nut. Cecile and I found out that Coronacion and Romero are, like Winnie, firm believers in extra-virgin coconut oil. In fact, Coronacion takes six tablespoons every day! It has to be the direct cause of these people's youthful looks.

But the most important aspect stressed by our two guests is the urgent need to strengthen and revitalize the coconut industry now, so that our coconut farmers will be able to cash in on the benefits of all the recent discoveries concerning this miracle plant. Happily the Arroyo administration seems well aware of this need.

* * *

Coronacion pointed out that Indonesia has replaced the Philippines in coconut production. Our neighbor has 3.7 million hectares planted to coconuts while the Philippines has 3.1 million hectares. He noted that our 1.6 million coconut farmers comprise one-third of our agricultural sector and supports about 15 million people, and that coconut products remain our No. 1 agricultural export. However, the coco farmers remain agriculture's poorest, with many earning as little as P800 a month while the copra traders earn well.

Coronacion said that all the positive reports concerning virgin coconut oil could help our farmers very much as it could raise the value of the oil by as much as 10 times (one liter is marketed at P400 to P600). The extraction technology could be propagated at the village level. An extraction machine that can process as many as 600 nuts producing 40 liters at a time can be set up at a cost of P50,000 to P120,000. Such projects should merit budget allocations for the 68 coconut provinces in 2005.

* * *

But even before we can talk of value-added projects, Coronacion stressed that the basic problem is how to revitalize the industry, beginning with the replacement of trees that are too old and planting more. This boils down to funding. He and Romero stressed that it's about time the coco levy funds that were extracted from the farmers nearly three decades ago and now valued at P150 billion were used according to their original intention: to help the farmers. They noted that the 27 percent of San Miguel Corp. shares that even Eduardo Cojuangco himself admitted to have been purchased with coco levy funds have now earned about P1.5 billion in dividends. They said these dividends ought to be released to help coco farmers undertake a massive replanting of trees.

(More on this later.)

Understanding AD/HD

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

FOR two years after her son, now in grade school at the Ateneo, was diagnosed with Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (AD/HD), former broadcaster Dada Lorenzana Santiago admits that she was "in denial." Bringing her son to a developmental psychologist on the advice of relatives, she resisted the doctor's recommendation that, aside from behavioral modification and monitoring, the boy should also start a regimen of medication to control his hyperactivity.

"We were afraid of the side effects," she says, and, she realizes now, she and her husband Mon may also have been unwilling to fully accept that their son had been diagnosed with a "disorder."

And then two years ago, Dada took part in the first National Conference on AD/HD. The event, she says, "was like my coming out" to the local AD/HD community. "I was so happy! Finally, I met parents who knew what I was going through, coping with fears and problems like mine, and assuring me that there were ways of managing my son's condition."

The conference also served as an eye-opener for Dada and other parents of children with AD/HD that Philippine society as a whole needed to "get on board," since a large number of children and youths with AD/HD in this country remain unrecognized and undiagnosed, making them vulnerable to physical and sexual abuse, "labeling" as "lazy," "stupid," "hardheaded" and "violent" that results in low self-esteem and depression that in turn leads to alcohol and substance abuse and even violent and criminal behavior.

Now the PRO of the AD/HD Society of the Philippines, Dada urges other parents of children with AD/HD, or who simply want to know more about it, to take part in the Second National Conference on AD/HD, which takes place from Oct. 21-23 at The Tent at the Plaza Car Park, Power Plant Mall in Rockwell Center, Makati. Among the speakers at the conference are Dr. Harlan Gephart and Sandra Rief, two of the world's foremost authorities on AD/HD.

* * *

FOR her part, Dada says she has reconciled herself to her son's need for medication, which helps him focus on schoolwork and other tasks. At the same time, to counter her son's short attention span and tendency to abandon one task to start another, she has learned to put more "structure" in his days, keeping him on a tight schedule, and working out a "contract" with him on tasks he needs to complete, giving him a "star" for every accomplishment.

"Medication can only help," Dada told other parents of children with AD/HD. "But it will not get rid of the problem. AD/HD will be with your child for the rest of his life. But with careful management, he can still grow into a productive, loving adult."

In fact, Dada and other officers of the AD/HD Society cite some adults they know who have been diagnosed with AD/HD, including a special education teacher and a married couple who both have AD/HD. Could our husbands, with their irritability, moods and short attention spans also be "AD/HD?" the five of us around the table wonder, laughing.

* * *

AD/HD is hardly a laughing matter, especially for the child coping with a condition he or she has yet to understand, and that child's parents, teachers and friends, who must cope with disturbing and even alarming forms of behavior while seeking to understand it.

A primer on AD/HD, produced by the society, defines AD/HD as behavior characterized by "developmentally inappropriate," that is, not in sync with common behavior among children of a certain age, "inattention, hyperactivity and impulsivity." It could very well be that the child is "naturally" *malikot at makulit* (restless and annoying), says Rose Aligada, a special education teacher who helped found the AD/HD Society. But parents should consider the possibility of AD/HD when such a behavior is not only age-inappropriate, but also impairs the child's ability to learn, interact with children of the same age, and is disruptive of normal human relations.

AD/HD, says Marfina Teodoro, president of the society, should not be mistaken for mental retardation or autism, which are also developmental disorders. "A child with AD/HD is at least of average intelligence," she notes, explaining why they are against the placement of children with the condition in "special" schools. "I believe it is precisely the structure and discipline in a regular school that will help the child focus," she says.

* * *

AD/HD, writes Dr. Ma. Theresa Arranz-Lim, is a neurological syndrome that is usually genetically transmitted, that is, it runs in families. There is no "foolproof test" for AD/HD, or for a variation, ADD (for attention deficit disorder). But it is usually suspected if the individual shows behavior that is inappropriate for his age, long-lasting and evident for at least six months, with onset before the age of seven.

Among the more common "signs" of AD/HD, inattentive type, are failure or inability to give close attention to details or makes careless mistakes; has difficulty sustaining attention; does not appear to listen; struggles to follow through on instructions; has difficulty with organization; avoids or dislikes tasks requiring sustained mental effort; is easily distracted; is forgetful in daily activities.

These signs may also be accompanied by other behaviors such as: fidgeting with hands or feet or squirming in chair; has difficulty remaining seated; runs about or climbs excessively; has difficulty engaging in quiet activities; talks excessively; blurts out answers before questions have been completed; has difficulty waiting or taking turns; interrupts or intrudes upon others. A child with AD/HD may also sometimes "act up" or turn violent, having little control over his impulses and actions.

More on AD/HD in tomorrow's column.

16th and 17th century urbanism (2)

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

MANILA ended the 17th century with the appearance of a half-abandoned city: structures made of wood and nipa beside old ruined stone buildings. The general plan though, like the configuration of the streets etc., maintained the organization and structure given by Francisco Tello.

During the initial years of Intramuros, there wasn't much income to construct important government buildings and the government had to depend on the contributions of the residents and the councilmen. In 1586, when Santiago de Vera started building stone edifices, the city was devoid of the most necessary buildings. Two years earlier, the councilmen complained that they had "neither houses nor a jail, nor granaries nor butcher shops nor streets nor bridges. The situation hadn't changed much by 1586. The procurator of the city, Hernan de Poyatos, wrote that the city didn't have any income from rents or public lands. It also needed water fountains because there was no potable water; drinking water came from more than a league away. At the time, the councilmen were holding meetings in a chamber without walls or a door.

The progressive increase in rents and borrowings from the royal treasury as well as from the residents allowed investments in public works and the beautification of Intramuros. The *cabildo* was able to spend the money necessary to give the residents those constructions indispensable for the ordinary development of an urban life. What was spent for bridges, streets, and warehouses sometimes was more than what was spent on government salaries. According to documents detailing the expenses of the council, P103, 838 was spent from 1616 to 1691 on the following: the buildings of the cabildo and the public jail; el Puente Grande del Rio and other bridges over rivers and esteros; bake shops, butcher shops and a slaughter house; a tower for the clock, the churches of Sta. Potenciana, San Andres and San Anton; embankments for the city and for the Parian of the Sangleys; opening some esteros and closing others; paving the plaza with flagstones and other city streets; cleaning up the debris of the 1645 earthquake. Unearthing the archives of the city that had been buried by soil, debris and stones cost P513.

One of the most influential sectors of Intramuros was the members of the *cabildo* or councilmen. They bought property in the principal streets of the city and constructed other houses to rent out or to use as rest houses. The Sarmientos, one of the most powerful families of the time in Manila, had a huge house on calle Sta. Potenciana. Constructed by Juan Sarmiento in 1617, it passed on to his heirs until Nicolas Sarmiento sold it to Francisco de Ocampo and Diego de Palencia toward the end of the 17th century. In 1645, the house was valued at P14,000.

The Arceos were owners as well of a house in the same Plaza Mayor of the city with such a good view that the fiscals would take over its balconies during fiestas, leaving no room for the owner or his family. It was valued at P11,000.

The majority of the councilmen would buy in auctions houses belonging to other residents of Manila, usually fellow councilmen. In general these houses were only available among the same social circles. Manuel Estacio bought Pedro de Heredia's house in 1617, a house that was so luxurious that when it was embargoed to pay off his debt to the Treasury it became the governor's palace since the old one was destroyed in the 1645 earthquake. Pedro Quintero bought Santiago de Gazelu's house and Jeronimo de Somonte that of Martin de Aduna.

In some cases, the fortune of some councilmen allowed them this type of investment in real estate, buying land and houses in auctions with the end in view of renting them out or adding to their estates. Gabriel Gomez del Castillo owned three houses: his residence, a rest house beside the Pasig River and another that he bought at auction from the estate of Alonso Martin Quirante to rent out. Luis Alonso de Roa also had various urban properties that he would rent out.

By the mid-17th century, the majority of councilmen had urban properties and possessed the best and most expensive houses in the city (now why am I not surprised?). These structures, moreover, were located in the principal streets of Intramuros, especially the one called "de Palacio" and the other parallel to it that went from the plaza to the convent of San Nicolas. In these two streets were concentrated some 47 residents that maintained a close relationship with the *cabildo*, because they had been councilmen or would be in the future. The rich families had their houses there: the Arceos, Ezquerras and Sarmientos.

In general, these were buildings of stone with tiled roofs, stables and arcades. Some had interior patios with a well, a staircase going to the *entresuelo* and the upper floors. Only the big houses whose owners were wealthy had kitchens in their homes. As a rule, in the assessment of 1649, the houses with kitchens were more valuable and for the most part belonged to families related or with connections to the government. (Does this ring a bell?)

(Loose translation of Inmaculada Alva Rodriguez, "Urbanismo municipal en Manila [Siglo XVI-XVII].)

* * *

Comments to bambiharper@yahoo.com

A letter to my self

YOUNG BLOOD

Adrian M. Laserna

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

DEAR Friend:

The mere fact that you're reading this letter is an indication that your will to survive remains intact. The temptation to succumb to the hostile pressures of the struggles and sufferings of life has not obliterated your determination to carry on. Not yet, at least. But before the last fiber of strength snaps, allow me to at least help you rekindle your dampening spirit.

First and foremost, let's go back to some of the most fundamental realities of life. Every mortal who walked on this planet went through a similar phase to what you're encountering now. Anguish and pain exempt no one—from the most obscure individual to the greatest achievers. Even the Man whom we consider as a descendant of our Creator and who supposedly possesses immortality experienced an excruciating painful period in His life. Imagine being scourged while walking barefoot on a scorching road to Golgotha, not to mention the hoots and hisses of critics and the betrayal of trusted friends and carrying a heavy wooden cross at the same time. I suggest you watch Mel Gibson's controversial film to get a clearer picture of what I mean.

We often wonder why others are blessed, financially and physically, while others are simply wretched. Or why some of our fellowmen, already deprived of almost everything in life, have to carry the burden of being born with abnormalities or being stricken with incurable ailments while some men who have committed unspeakable atrocities and inhuman acts enjoy great privileges. But then nobody can really fathom these enigmas of life unless you're the Supreme Being.

Indeed, life is unfair. Whoever said otherwise ought to be fed to the lions. Apartheid, anti-Semitism, and the millions forced to live in extreme poverty are just some of the manifestations of life's unfairness. And the sad thing about it is that we seem to be unable to change the status quo. I'm inclined to believe with Henry Miller that we have to realize that we can't change the world, and that the best thing we can do is to learn to live with it. Despite the intense idealism of our youth, the current situation reduces us to cynicism.

But then this is life. Despite its imperfections we have to carry on. As Max Erhwann said, with all its sham, drudgery and broken dreams, it's still a beautiful world and we should strive to be happy. We should never allow our pains and frustrations to dominate our lives. Obstacles and trials have the useful function of developing our strength and courage. We may not notice it initially, but sooner or later we will realize that hardships contributed to our progress.

Unfortunately for many us, the result of facing obstacles is the birth of fear. Fear to take risks and commit mistakes. Humans that we are, being prone to error in our actions and decisions is part of our nature. Let us just remember that even the most successful personalities had their own share of failures. What brought them to where they are is their will and determination to surmount the barriers they faced along the way.

Even as I write this piece, I am watching the Olympic marathon. I can't help but note how closely this competition parallels life. Here's a perfect example of "survival of the fittest." Not every competitor will finish the race. To every athlete in the race, the finish line seems to be an eternity away. Those who are able to prevail over their weaknesses earn a well deserved accolade from the spectators. In spite of the thirst, the heat of summer in Athens, the cramps in their legs, they made it to the finish line. Even if they failed to win a medal, the fact that they were able to finish the course is victory enough.

Much like life. The challenges we face every single day as we struggle for survival can force the weakling to give up. But if our never-say-die spirit overcomes our impulse to surrender, then our lives become a success. For even if we failed in our quest for glory, we have faithfully completed our task.

Adrian M. Laserna, 20, is a Political Science major at the De La Salle University-Dasmariñas.

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO . . .?

PLDT.com

THE LANDMARK case concerning the use of the Internet domain name www.pldt.com remains unresolved to this day.

On Sept. 22, 1999, telephone giant Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. sued webmaster Gerardo Kaimo and the Philippine League for Democratic Telecommunications Inc. (PLDTI) alleging illegal use of the domain name www.pldt.com and seeking P1.35 million in damages

PLDT alleged that PLDTI's use of the contested website address, which is registered under Kaimo, "diverted and lured" Internet users into Kaimo's site instead of being directed to its own corporate website at www.pldt.com.ph.

Kaimo, a member of the board of PLDTI and webmaster of the site, countered that the "website is dedicated to free speech in the form of personal commentary, parody and satire on current events/issues, free e-mail service and an active public discussion board." Disclaimers were displayed to distinguish it from PLDT, he pointed out.

PLDTI is a group opposed to PLDT's metering plan. It was also involved in protests against the cellular phone companies decision to cut text message allocations to subscribers.

Case status: On Aug. 27, Kaimo and PLDTI advised the Quezon City Regional Trial Court Branch 90 that they had not reached a settlement with PLDT. Judge Reynaldo Daway reset the pre-trial conference to Oct. 26.

D.J. Yap, PDI Research

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Dreaming of trains

I HOPE you will continue your *Bantay Riles* stories until such time our government realizes that it looks like we are the only country on earth that does not care to have a decent train system to reach other parts of the country. Even Vietnam has a modern railway system that reaches out to its far-flung provinces.

Transportation is one of the basic ingredients of a successful economy. Why can't government economists see this? If this government can provide an efficient and safe railway system from Manila to Ilocos to the north and to Bicol in the south, I'm sure there will be much improvement on our lives.

1. People can work in the cities and live in the provinces; unlike today, those who want to work in the cities end up in squatter areas because it takes too long going home to the provinces every day via the public bus system.

2. Business in the provinces and areas on the path of the railway system will improve as they will be accessible to local and foreign investments.

3. Local tourism will get a boost. More local and foreign tourists will be going to the provinces because travel time will be less; unlike today, travel time to Baguio is eight hours; to Bicol, it's 12 hours.

4. Local manufacturing industries will grow as subdivisions sprout in far north and far south.

5. Metro Manila will be decongested, resulting in less traffic and pollution, as people would want to ride the faster trains than drive their cars from the provinces.

6. Goods will be transported faster to the cities from the provinces, bringing down transportation costs and the turnaround time for supply and demand.

7. Our children will once again enjoy provincial travels (current trains and railways are very dilapidated I would not risk myself riding them). I can remember myself as a kid going to Pangasinan with my father riding the train. That was over 25 years ago!

8. Less road accidents as there will be less cars and buses on the roads.

Hope this dream can come true in the very near future!

—OMAR T. LOPEZ,
IT locations manager,
Unisys Philippines, Imagine it. Done.,
20F The Enterprise Center Tower II,
Ayala Ave. cor. Paseo de Roxas,
Makati City

Napocor rate increase will not solve power crisis

THIS is in relation to Abigail Ho's 3-part series on the looming power crisis. While we do not welcome its advent, we want to be part of its solution—but not through increased power rates.

We vehemently disagree with the proposition that an increase in the rates of the National Power Corporation will be the key in averting a power crisis, as this would pave the way for the entry of more investors.

On the contrary, high rates would trigger low demand that will discourage investors, especially in industries that are heavily dependent on electricity. Will investors put money in companies that produce much but sell less?

Granting—but not agreeing—that Napocor's rates are very low, we believe this is not the reason why it is losing money; neither is it the reason why it has incurred P1.3 trillion in debt. Napocor is losing because it spends more than what it earns. A big part of its expenditures goes to independent power producers as payments for onerous contracts. We feel strongly that a rate increase is being resorted to as an easy way to camouflage the inefficiencies in the power sector, even as the public and consumers are dragged into the problem as unwilling pawns.

(We trust in President Macapagal-Arroyo's assurance that she will not burden our people with high electricity rates considering that sound solutions are at hand. By "sound solutions," we believe she did not mean rate increases.)

The only way to avert the power crisis is to hasten competition. This, we think, is the very essence of Electric Power Industry Reform Act—to put order in the power sector by injecting some competition in the market.

As noted by a power industry figure, with Epira, the power industry is now a completely new arena; it calls for more private sector participation and real competition. Energy Secretary Vince Perez himself admits that competition would result in more reasonable and stable power rates. With competition, investments will pour into the power sector and every other industry. Demand will increase and with it brisk business. But this will happen only if the accompanying preconditions provided in the Epira are met and the stranded contract costs are totally scrapped.

But, alas, the recent decision of the Energy Regulatory Commission giving Napocor provisional authority to increase its rates by an average of P0.9798 has instead slowed down the advent of competition.

Nevertheless, we share the optimism of Mr. Raphael Lotilla, president of Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp.: the country will not fall into darkness if the energy players get their act together. Given the proper mix of solution and cooperation, the brownouts can be avoided.

—SID LICO,
chair, National Association of Electricity Consumers for Reforms Inc., (Nasecore),
Northern Mindanao Chapter,
Cinco Building, Pabayo Gomez Street,
Cagayan De Oro City

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Well done

TO OUR luckless and medal-less athletic contingent to the recently concluded Athens 2004 Olympic Games: Instead of words of disappointment, I would like to offer instead words of consolation and appreciation. For this purpose, a quote from an Athenian (and not merely a Greek)—Aristotle himself, the greatest philosopher of the Classical Age, indeed, of any age, including the present.

Let me preface Aristotle's words with the parallel thought of the late Benjamin Nathan Cardozo, an associate justice of the United States Supreme Court, and acknowledged as one of the truly great judges the United States has produced: "In life, the main thing is to dare." Accordingly, "(a)s at the Olympic games," says Aristotle, "it is not the finest and the strongest men [and women] who are crowned, but they who enter the list (like the RP contingent), for out of these the prisemen are selected; so, too, in life, of the honorable and the good, it is they who act who rightly win the prizes."

Our athletes certainly dared, and just as certainly acted, in the Athens 2004 Olympic Games: they too "rightly (won) the prizes."

To our athletes, well done!

—JOSE C. LAURETA,
117 Gamboa St., Legaspi Vill.,
Makati City

Misallocated pork

OUR lawmakers seem to have developed the notion that they must have a pork barrel allocation, so much so that they have become more predisposed to pork than to legislative work. No, our legislators are not supposed to have pork in the total context of good governance. Pork in the hands of our legislators is a misallocation of funds. Their giving it up should not be regarded as a sacrifice.

Yes, the bigger their pork barrel, the more it diminishes and limits the capability of the executives to physically develop the national community and enhance the well-being and welfare of the people. It is the job of the national and local executives to decide where to put up and how much to spend for a development project or program; not the legislators'.

But our legislators have conveniently forgotten that they are elected to legislate not to dispense funds for their constituents. If they are really interested to have a say in such matters for the benefit of their constituencies, they should enact the necessary laws for the local executives to carry out. Besides, they can attend development council meetings—in the barangay up to the national levels.

—FORTUNATO U. ABAT,
fortunatouabat@yahoo.com

It should be gov't helping masses, not the other way around

THE KILUSAN Para sa Pambansang Demokrasya strongly criticizes the Arroyo administration for not apologizing for its incompetence while appreciating the fund-raising campaign initiated by the middle class and the ruling elite to supposedly combat the fiscal crisis.

It is the Arroyo administration that has put this country in a fiscal mess. Government records show that President Macapagal-Arroyo borrowed more from financial institutions than the Ramos and Estrada administrations did.

It is also Ms Arroyo who is at fault for not pursuing (if not covering-up) the culprits of the countless scams that the media have uncovered from the time she assumed the presidency—the Diosdado Macapacal Road Scam, the Road Tax Scam, corrupt BIR officials, diversions of public funds during the campaign period, to name a few.

Ms Arroyo has the audacity to justify new and higher tax impositions on the Filipino people, who are bearing the brunt of the fiscal crisis, even as their request for a measly hike in their wages, which they badly need to cope with inflation, is being taken lightly.

To resolve the fiscal crisis, KPD demands that Ms Arroyo adopt the following measures: moratorium on debt servicing; prosecution of corrupt officials and tax evaders; tax holiday for workers, rather than for foreign investors; nationalization of the power and oil industry; an end to the importation of cheaper, tax-free imported products that kill local industries; higher budgets for health and education; and provision of subsidies and support services for the agricultural, fisheries and local industries.

We admit that the fiscal crisis is an issue that should concern Filipinos, but they should not be made to shell out their hard-earned "last centavo" to add to government coffers. It is the Arroyo administration that should provide the masses with stable and sustainable livelihoods in the first place.

—MILLET MORANTE,
secretary general,
Kilusan Para sa
Pambansang Demokrasya
(Movement for National Democracy),
78C K6th St., Kamias,
Quezon City

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September 21: What are your recollections of Martial Law? Any lessons learned?

my recollection of martial law are da bombing of Plaza Miranda & no freedom to speak out. Complain and meet your doom.—**Krystel Marie Paloma**, *General Santos City*

i was 10 yrs old in 1972, i recall then that TV programs were cut off, and there was fear. i believe that Filipinos learned well d value of freedom.—**RIZALILY BUNING**, *BULACAN*

Thousands of detractors of marcos were jailed, tortured and executed without due process. We must always be vigilant.—**rey nem singh**, *quezon city*

I remember a lot of long haired young men, me included, having a hair cut. 4 a while d Filipinos learned n practiced discipline.—**Danilo A. Andrey**, *QC*

had my first haircut in a jeep by a soldier. had nice trimmed hair always.—**renato tabajonda**, *makati city*

Filipino youth were disciplined by Phil. Constabulary.—**Romy Almonte**, *Taguig*

The Banaue rice terraces look was my hairstyle then, courtesy of soldiers manning checkpoints. Lessons? Never again!—**jack san diego**, *manila*

Walang pasok sa umpisa, free gupit courtesy of d AFP, green rev, NCEE, Ms U, Thrilla n Mla, desaparecidos.—**Cesar Marinius M. Reyes**, *Agusan del Norte*

lessons learned from martial law. Its not the type of government whether democratic or dictatorship that prevents corruption—**cherrie ong**, *pasig*

My recollections of Martial Law are the following: quality life, safety and discipline.—**Edgar Nicdao**, *Las Piñas City*

dictatorshp & demcracy in d Philippines have something in common, rich pipol get richer, & poor pipol get poorer.—**maureen n. reyes**, *Los Baños*

importance of press freedom which was curtailed during martial law.—**jimmy samonte**, *makati*

d losts of communication and media in d country in d years of martial law, but people realized that they can save d country by themselves.—**amparo satparam**, *oas, albay*

During d martial law years, der was law & order, no traffic jams, no pork barrel, no PPA, hence no fiscal crisis.—**Susana Co**, *Quezon City*

Disorder in the guise of order, was all martial law gave our people—for the ruling class to remain in power.—**RENE DE GUZMAN**, *CABANATUAN CITY*

i wasn't even born in 72. But my mom says ML was gud bec Pinoys were disciplined. Lesson? Power corrupts even those with d best intentions.—**trudis sapitan**, *Malolos, Bulacan*

Curfew every night. Checkpoints every day. No freedom of d press. it disciplined us in a way it is unfilipino.—**Gary Teh**, *Manila*

D loss of freedom doesn't lead 2 a better life. On d contrary, Pinoys know dat life can't become better—it can't even be good—unless people are free!—**Willie Somabes**, *QC*

martial law was a wasted opportunity. While Singapore progressed under martial law, ours sank. What we got is a legacy of graft.—**jack rubiano**, *Samal, Bataan*

Military abuses & gruesome killings tell us da evils of Martial Law.—**ROLANDO P. SINAJON**, *DIGO CITY*

People were arrested, missing, tortured, killed. Those in power, the Marcoses, the military, abused their power. They looted and impoverished our nation. And those guilty were never punished. We must remain vigilant and defend our freedom.—**K. Marte**, *Quezon City*

We will struggle on, no mater how long it takes or what it costs, until we establish a just community of free men in our land.—**Willie Somabes**, *QC*

What is your favorite comics? Why?

BABY BLUES kasi humor parang dyipni. Easy sakyan.—**Larry Novenario**, *Las Piñas*

Kiko machine is my favorite comic strip! Talagang pinapakita buhay ng isang UP student. Hassles, deadlines at saya ng buhay—**Amilou Gatchalian**, *Taguig City*

baby blues. Its liberating 2 laugh about d everyday parental travails dat I go thru as well—**Kermin Fortes**, *Caloocan*

pugad baboy bcoz of its intelligent & uniquely pinoy humor.—**Anthonio Catubay**, *Dasmariñas*

KIKO MACHINE!! It really shows the crazy thoughts & the college life that the youth (pati ako) of today are SUFFERING. Ang ganda.—**Wong**, *Iligan*

pugad baboy! it has enuf wit 2 be satirical n enuf stupidity 2 be funny, plus its 100% pinoy!—**Charmaine**, *Quezon City*

foxtrot is d best! The nerd kid, jason, always thinks up of cool and goofy ideas which r really cool!—**Lance Katigbak**, *Muntinlupa*

i lyk kiko machine by m.Abrera coz d series r rily hilarious and dey tackle meaningful dilemma our time.—**Xy**, *San Carlos City*

pugad baboy s d best coz it showcases pinoy wit & sense of humor, & depicts Pinoy life at its best, even when faced with challenges.—**marcelo dapit III**, *QC*

my fave comic strip is TULDOK. It is illustrated with few lines but funny. It makes me think & analyze also.—**Leo Laca**, *Binangonan, Rizal*

a.lipin ksi cute ang style nila sa pagpuna sa mga issues at sa mga taong involved. Pasimple lang pero siguradong may matatamaan.—**Cyroj**, *Roxas City*

my fave cOmic strip is the kiko machine coz it rily depicts wat student think bout der teachers. Weird!—**Wallyngail R. Yumul**, *Isabela*

my fav comic strip is pugad baboy bcoz they present d problems of the filipinos in a funny way! Makes u smile :)—**Daisy Reyes**, *Tayabas, Quezon*

baby blues bec i can relate 2 d parents situation & der kids remind me of my kids. I even clip and compile dem n my scrapbook.—**Jean Alonzo**, *Manila*

a.lipin by jess abrera, mas madali intindihin ang nangyayari sa bansa, isa rin itong way ng media na nkakaaliw & may matututunan ka impormasyon.—**Vanessa Sebrio**, *Parañaque*

i luv pugad baboy so much! it realy tickles d funny bones. Plus, it can get away with brown jokes, political satire, anything!—**Riza Magpayo**, *Caloocan city*

one of my fave local strips is pugad baboy bcoz it hilariously addresses current socio-political issues.—**Donna Loscos**, *Antipolo City*

i hav 3 fave comics strips namely: marvin, ben, & baby blues. But i just luv baby blues more. It's so funny!—**Melanie Adique**, *Bacolod City*

kiko machine> peyups na peyups ang dating!—**ian obiña**, *manila*

I like Baby Blues coz im a 1st time mother. da topics r all about family matters. its fun reading materials dat u can relate to.—**Ma. Katherine Napa**, *Parañaque*

i like very much d pugad baboy comic strip bcoz character and messages der are funny 2 see & read. Like Pigs bathe in d mud.—**Maurice Fabrero**, *Caloocan City*

Pugad Baboy bcoz its timely and humorous at d same time and d people are fat like me.—**Alvin Z. Almelor**, *Quezon City*

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30 NPA guerrillas storm fishpond, burn tractor, equipment

BACOLOD CITY—At least 30 communist rebels on Saturday torched four pieces of equipment inside a fishpond in E.B. Magalona, Negros Occidental and took off with communication radios and cellular phones.

Supt. Mark Edison Belarma, acting provincial police director, said extortion was the motive behind the raid by the New People's Army (NPA) on the fishpond of Betty Montinola in Barangay Madalag, E.B. Magalona, about 23 km north of this city.

Belarma said seven armed men entered the fishpond area of Montinola in Madalag, a coastal village located five km from the town proper.

The rest of the NPA members, he added, stood guard outside the fishpond.

The rebels torched a Massey Ferguson tractor, two generator sets and a heavy equipment backhoe. They then took a base radio, a handset and four cellular phones of the fishpond workers before fleeing from the scene, police investigations showed.

Other targets

The attack came two months after armed rebels slaughtered 47 fighting cocks of gamefowl breeder Danilo Hinlo in Barangay Punta Salong, Manapla town after he refused to pay revolutionary taxes.

The military had estimated that the NPA rebels had destroyed about P42 million worth of pieces of property of private-owned corporations and individuals in Western Visayas after they refused to pay revolutionary taxes.

In his recent visit to Bacolod, priest-turned-rebel Luis Jalandoni, National Democratic Front spokesperson justified the collection of revolutionary taxes, as a "prerogative of the revolutionary government."

He said the implementation of taxes also carried with it some "coercive force to ensure compliance." *Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

LAKE FEAST

GRACE CANTAL-ALBASIN/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

Participants in a boat race prepare their decorated boats at the start of the Lake Mainit Grand Festival which features the bright-colored boats in the lake in Jabonga, Agusan del Norte.

Sabah refuge of newsman's slay suspect

PAGADIAN CITY—The main suspect in the killing of journalist Edgar Damalerio had sought refuge in Sabah, Malaysia.

PO1 Guillermo Wapile, suspected gunman in the May 13, 2002 killing of Damalerio, also accused the National Bureau of Investigation of framing him up.

Wapile arrived here escorted by agents of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) and presented to regional trial court Judge Rolando Goan.

Wapile also faces malversation charges for taking an Armalite rifle and a 9 mm pistol with him when he escaped on Feb. 27 last year.

His lawyer, Flavio Cordero, said Wapile was "a victim of frame up by the local NBI" which handled the case in 2002.

But Friolo Icao Jr., NBI district chief, said the frame-up allegation was "recycled."

"There is nothing new to that," Icao said.

Supt. Gregorio Pimentel, chief of the CIDG in Western Mindanao, said Wapile admitted during interrogation that he went to Sabah, Malaysia after his escape from the custody of the provincial police command.

Pimentel said Wapile worked in Sabah as a laborer "assuming a new name."

He said his men had to check all information of reported sightings of the suspect.

"We've operated in Cebu, Cagayan de Oro, in many parts of Pagadian City but all of these turned out negative," Pimentel said.

A breakthrough was made when the younger brother of Ozamiz City Mayor Reynaldo Parojinog, Ardot, and a certain Gener, helped locate Wapile.

On Sept. 9, Wapile reportedly traveled by boat from Sabah to Cotabato City. From Cotabato, Wapile went to General Santos City, then to Davao City enroute to Lipata, Surigao where he boarded a ferryboat for Samar and Bicol.

"By Sept. 12, he reached Los Baños, Laguna where he was already accompanied by Ozamiz City Mayor Parojinog and Clarin Misamis Occidental Mayor David Navarro," Pimentel said of Wapile's surrender.

Pimentel said he had applied all the interrogation methods he knows but still failed to extract information from the suspect.

"He refused to say anything, feigning innocence," Pimentel said.

"We can't get any information from him."

Pimentel police were still following up leads "to find out who ordered the killing."

Damalerio's wife Gemma, expressed concern that Wapile's life may be in danger because the masterminds in the killing of Damalerio could silence the expoliceman. *Hernan de la Cruz, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

ROUNDUP

Lawyer pleads innocence

CEBU CITY—A lawyer charged with frustrated homicide was arrested by agents of the National Bureau of Investigation at his house in Dumaguete City on Thursday. Darryl Amante did not resist the lawmen who served a warrant issued by Judge Ireneo Lee Gako of the Cebu regional trial court after the lawyer failed to appear for arraignment. Reynaldo Esmeralda, NBI regional director, said Amante pleaded innocent to the charge of shooting and wounding a neighbor, Owen Veraque, on Dec. 9, 2002 near his house in Barangay Buhisan here. The judge released Amante after posting bail, said Esmeralda. *Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Road attack

NARVACAN, Ilocos Sur—A man was shot and killed by two men wearing crash helmets shortly after he attended a court hearing on Thursday in Barangay San Jose here. Police said Helbert Ayson, 36, of Sta. Maria town was aboard his motorcycle and on his way home when he was attacked. Ayson suffered two bullet wounds and died at the Ilocos Sur Central District Hospital here.
Leoncio Balbin Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

NPA impostor caught

STO. TOMAS, Batangas—Police arrested an alleged New People's Army impostor in an entrapment operation here. Jose Bolante Jr., alias Ka June, 26, driver and native of Libmanan, Camarines Sur, was arrested in an entrapment operation. Bolante, who is facing other criminal cases and had been ordered arrested by the Regional Trial Court Branch 6 in Tanauan City, allegedly sent a letter demanding P40,000 to a Chinese-Filipino trader, Qing Chen. The victim was able to reduce the amount to P25,000. Bolante was arrested by a police team led by Chief Insp. Raul Tacaca at a pick-up point at a gasoline station.
Arlene Javier Ona, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Ramos-Horta visit

BATANGAS CITY—As part of his tour in Asia, Dr. Jose Ramos-Horta, East Timor minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, flew to Batangas City in a helicopter for a brief visit to the provincial capitol on Thursday. Ramos-Horta, a Nobel Peace Prize winner, was accompanied by Vice Gov. Ricky Recto and department heads. He observed a presentation of projects by the provincial planning division.
Arlene Javier Ona, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

2 killed in bank van robbery

ROXAS, Isabela—A security guard and a suspected bank robber were killed in an exchange of gunfire after armed men held up a bank van carrying an undetermined amount on Monday in Barangay Bantug here. Killed were Bienvenido Dumaual, security guard of Philippine National Bank branch here, and James Binbinon. Reports said the bank's Toyota Tamaraw FX van was traveling along Poblacion area when three men, armed with a cal. 45 revolver and 9 mm pistols, stopped the vehicle. Binbinon and his companions shot the van's mirror and declared a holdup. Sensing danger, Dumaual drew his rifle and shot Binbinon, who also shot back. Both were killed instantly. Two other suspects took the money placed in a duffel bag and fled on a commandeered tricycle.
Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Suspect in Batangas judge's murder out on bail

CALAMBA CITY—A suspected member of a gun-for-hire group, who was arrested two weeks ago for the June 10 ambush-slaying of Tanauan City Judge Voltaire Rosales, is now out on bail.

Aldrin Galicia, 32, a resident of Barangay Pantay Matanda, Tanauan City, posted P85,000 in bail on Wednesday for the illegal possession of firearms charges filed against him at the Tanauan City regional trial court.

Galicia was arrested with two other suspects—Christopher Pamote, 28, and Michael Rivera, 19—after a brief gunfight with local police and members of the Task Force Rosales in Barangay Trapiche, Tanauan City.

Police released his two companions after Supt. Renato Angara, Tanauan City police chief, failed to file any case against them.

Angara said police have yet to secure a warrant of arrest to detain Galicia for the killing of Rosales.

He said the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group in Batangas City had already taken over the case.

"As far as we are concerned, we only filed the illegal possession of firearms case against Galicia. The ball is now in the hands of the Task Force Rosales," he told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

But Supt. Federico Bolanday, chief of the CIDG-Batangas, blamed Tanauan City prosecutor Benito Tersero for letting Galicia go.

He said that after they filed a murder charge against Galicia a day following his arrest, Tersero failed to immediately release the arrest warrant for the suspect.

Bolanday said witnesses pointed to Galicia as the driver of the motorcycle that the alleged gunman, Jun Asuncion, used when he gunned down Rosales who was then driving on his way home to Makati City.

Asuncion remains at large.

"Fiscal Tersero could have granted a warrant for Galicia. This is a heinous crime. It was his call (whether to release a warrant or not). We were really hoping that he would expedite the (resolution) of the case. But he did not," Bolanday said.

He said Tersero instead relegated the case to the regional trial court in San Pablo City, Laguna.

A preliminary investigation of the case was set yesterday afternoon, he said. *Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

4 die, 14 injured in North Expressway accidents

APALIT, Pampanga—Four people were killed while 14 others were seriously injured in a string of vehicular accidents at the viaduct of the North Luzon Expressway here at 1:45 a.m. on Monday, reports from the police and the Philippine National Construction Corp. said.

Chief Insp. Marcelo Dayag, Apalit police chief, said the smashups occurred when a dump truck hit the rear of a cargo truck parked along the north-bound lane of Km 53 at the viaduct's Barangay San Juan section.

A Five Star passenger bus, in turn, crashed into the rear of the dump truck, Dayag said.

The reports identified the fatalities as Emelito Camba, the dump truck driver; Rosalio Soliman, the bus driver; and passengers Roberto Braganza of Urdaneta City and Geraline Cruz of Urbiztondo, both of Pangasinan.

According to Dayag, the cargo truck driver, identified as Rolando Patrana, parked his vehicle because it experienced mechanical trouble.

The incident would have been prevented had the PNCC's highway patrol helped Patrana haul his truck out of the viaduct where the shoulders are narrow, a source said.

The 14 injured passengers were taken to the Jose B. Lingad Memorial Hospital in the City of San Fernando. They were being treated for serious injuries, Dayag said.

It was the first major vehicular accident at the viaduct this year, reports said. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

ARMM workers get P20 wage hike

COTABATO CITY—Workers of private firms in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) are set to get a P20 across-the-board wage increase beginning Oct. 16 this year.

This came after ARMM's Regional Wages and Productivity Board approved on Saturday a salary increase for the region's private sector workers.

The board, chaired by ARMM Labor Regional Secretary Emmanuel Alano, has conducted a series of consultations and public hearings with the labor and management sectors in Maguindanao, Lanao del sur, Sulu, Tawi-Tawi, Basilan and Marawi City.

Ruth Requerme, board secretary, said the consultations were well attended by representatives from labor and management, making the consultations a good basis for a new wage order.

"Even the indirectly affected sectors, such as academe and non-government organizations made their voices heard," she said.

Alano said most of the members of the management sector who attended the public hearing agreed to grant the salary increase "provided the increase is not exorbitant."

The members of the board were expected to sign the new wage order on Sept. 23. *Edwin Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Irish priest, Yorac receive Ateneo awards

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—A posthumous Bukas Palad award has been conferred on Fr. Niall O'Brien by the Ateneo de Manila University, in recognition of his being an "authentic missionary."

O'Brien, 65, born in Dublin, Ireland, had spent almost 40 years of his life in Negros Occidental working with the poor and was jailed during the Marcos regime after he was wrongfully accused of murder. He died of a rare blood disease while undergoing treatment in Pisa, Italy, on April 27.

O'Brien was conferred the award in a special university convocation last week. The Ateneo also conferred the Government Service Award to Presidential Commission on Good Government chair Haydee Yorac in the same occasion. Yorac is from EB Magalona, Negros Occidental.

Columban Regional Director Fr. Colm McKeating accepted the Bukas Palad Award from Fr. Bienvenido Nebres, president of Ateneo de Manila, while Columban Fr. Brian Gore gave the response, according to Bacolod-based Columban priest Fr. Sean Coyle.

Gore introduced himself as Father O'Brien's "co-accused," referring to their being part of the "Negros Nine"—the nine accused in the murder of a town official and who had been jailed from 1983 to 1984.

In his remarks, Gore describe O'Brien as "a visionary; not a dreamer," according to Coyle.

The citation, Coyle added, highlighted O'Brien's use of the Ilonggo language, especially in liturgy, his use of radio and the print media, his work in the formation of lay church leaders, his involvement with the sugar workers of Negros, his time in jail, his total commitment to active non-violence as a way of living the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The citation also said O'Brien was an example of "the authentic missionary recognized most simply by the passion with which he or she bears Jesus' dream of the Father's Kingdom in his or her spirit, by the love of the heart of Christ for his people which shapes everything in his or her life, a life unceasingly laid down with joy for love of his friends."

It concluded, "Because throughout his priestly life as a missionary in our country he embodied for all who met him and got to know him the truest meaning of Christian mission for our time and for every time; because he incarnated in fullest measure a most genuine 'preferential love for the poor' and a true sharing of their every 'joy and hope.'"

Coyle said that Yorac, in her acceptance of the Government Service Award, also spoke of her admiration of Father O'Brien and of their friendship.

It was a happy coincidence that both awards were given at the same convocation, he said.

The Government Service Award, created by Ateneo in 1997, "is the university's public acclamation of an individual or groups of individuals who serve with distinction in the executive, legislative, judicial branches or constitutional bodies of government at the national or local level."

The citation stated that "at the UP College of Law" Haydee Yorac "had a reputation as a tough and demanding professor, but those she taught always respected her sense of fairness."

Priest recalls martial law terror

From page A1

good candidate for the ensuing military roundup.

He continued: "Then I began to be more cautious. I feared the military because of the indiscriminate arrests and atrocities [that had begun]. I gathered the pre-martial law 'involved' priests and religious to help lift their sagging spirits. I worked vigorously, if naively, to unite the 'socdems' [social democrats] and the 'natdems' [national democrats]."

On Feb. 1, 1973, Nacu was arrested during a raid on a religious house. He was with church and political activists, and members of his Tondo community.

"For the first time in my life I experienced terror," he recounted. "I was normally angry because of exploitation [of] others but not [of] my own person. [But] under Marcos, all your rights could be violated and you cease to have inalienable rights."

After a couple of weeks in the stockade, the priest was released. But a month later, he was picked up again. "The military told me it was routine. I believed [them], so I went back to the stockade, which became [more and more] crowded with so many arrests [being made] every night. At one time, we were more than 30 in a tiny room. I was told that one of the top communist leaders had been arrested, and that he had fingered many of his comrades."

The escape

Nacu said his religious superior tried to negotiate for his release by saying he would be sent to the United States. "The military guffawed and said, 'He'll just join all the others there, like [former Sen. Raul] Manglapus et. al, and work against Marcos. He'll rot in jail.' After hearing that, I planned my escape."

First, he conducted a "trial run" by asking permission to visit his ailing father. He was allowed to go with an armed guard. He could have escaped then, he said, but didn't.

"I asked some colleagues to do research on the possibility of [being granted] political asylum at the French Embassy. Francois Mitterand had just made a campaign promise that he would give asylum to political refugees." Purificacion Pedro, one of the "researchers," was later killed by the military.

The day came. "Again, I asked permission to visit my father. When we got to our house, I offered my guard a drink and hypnotized him. Then I escaped and [went straight] to the French Embassy. I was assisted by some priests and members of the Christians for National Liberation (CNL), which I had helped establish. Unfortunately, the French ambassador was in France for Mitterand's presidential inauguration at the time. My request for asylum was denied."

Metrocom men had circled the compound, but the embassy staff helped the beleaguered priest get away through the fire escape. "Later, I was informed that Sr. Christine Tan of the Good Shepherd Sisters, then chair of the Association of Major Religious Superiors of Women [of the Philippines], had gotten word that Marcos issued a shoot-to-kill order against me."

Underground life

Nacu said he "lived like a rat, hiding from one house to another." For a while he stayed at the Good Shepherd Convent in Tagaytay. Then he went underground.

In 1974, the military caught up with him. "I was in Mindoro then," the priest recalled. "A military man who was my former student recognized me. I was not arrested immediately, but it didn't take long."

During the interrogation, Nacu tried all the tricks and bluffs possible. "I overheard people say the papal nuncio was scheduled to visit Mindoro. I seized that [bit of news] and used it to protest my detention. One of the officers asked if I was perhaps with the CIA [Central Intelligence Agency]."

Again, he grabbed the chance to bluff his way out by neither denying nor confirming. Instead, he repeatedly declared, aloud and with bravado, "Gen. [Fabian] Ver knows my case!" He was hoping to confuse his interrogators and make them think they had gotten the wrong man.

"I held on to that. At one point, I even demanded for a helicopter to take me back to Manila. 'Ask Ver,' I said. I was trying hard to impress them."

And did the "CIA agent" get a helicopter? "Of course not," Nacu laughs. Clearly, his protestations had not worked. He was brought to Manila in a military vehicle. He was detained in Bicutan for three years.

Hunger strike

Nacu was among several detainees who went on a much publicized hunger strike. "The military was so mad, they did a '*pompyang*' [clapping both ears with the hands, the way one would clash a pair of cymbals] on me. This affected my hearing."

During his stay in jail, the priest spent much time listening to the stories of torture victims. "One standard method was for the interrogator to put a gun to your forehead. He cocks the gun and forces you to confess. He pulls the trigger but there is no bullet."

But mostly, he said, the solider "just beat the victim to a pulp."

Through the intercession of Amnesty International and supporters from France, Nacu was released in 1977. Not long after, he was sent to the United States to cool off.

Born in 1932 in Manila, Nacu joined the La Salette fathers in 1952. His congregation was founded in France in 1852. He spent his novitiate at Cape Cod in Massachusetts, USA, and was ordained in 1957.

He recalls his process of awakening. "In the 1960s, I ministered to the students and the poor in squatter areas. I had no political affiliation, owing to simple ignorance. I just wanted people to have better lives. I was motivated by the teachings of Jesus Christ. I was very hopeful for the country under the Marcos presidency."

Gradually, he became disillusioned. He got involved with the Student Catholic Action and Zoto. During the First Quarter Storm, he took the students' side. "I saw them being beaten up," he said.

Politicization

His politicization had begun. He started giving speeches at Plaza Miranda, helped organize CNL, and joined rallies.

"The poor were being blamed for their poverty, they were called lazy and ignorant. I didn't like that. When I visited their homes, I saw how they lived. I asked myself whether I was brave enough to live that way. I began thinking of structural violence, how structures fostered disparity, how it fulfilled the needs of one class at the expense of another. I read a lot, reflected a lot, prayed a lot. I discussed with others. I listened to the youth."

Nacu's younger schoolmates at the Ateneo Graduate School remember him as the motorcycle-riding priest who varoomed in and out of the campus, walked with a waddle, and smoked too much. He was querulous but friendly, and always in a hurry.

For his "classmates" in the military stockade— Ipil Detention Center in Fort Bonifacio—he was the priest with the goatee, irreverent and funny.

Nacu met former Sen. Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr. and his wife Corazon in Massachusetts. The couple were often invited to the La Salette convent for dinner and talks. Not long after that meeting, Ninoy was assassinated.

In late 1980s, Nacu faced another hurdle—lung cancer. He was then serving as a pastor in a parish in Hawaii. "Just before my operation, I wanted to prove to myself that I could handle it. I ran the long stretch along Waikiki Beach."

But the post-surgery prognosis was bad. All that the doctors could suggest was for him to get used to the idea of taking pain killers. The cancer soon metastasized and affected his adrenal glands. He went under the knife again. Believing he didn't have much time, his doctor's advice at this point was: "Do anything you want. Enjoy life."

Pilgrimage

"I went on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land ... by myself," Nacu said. He wanted to be where Jesus once walked.

Then he proceeded to Egypt and joined a group that would go up Mount Sinai—where Moses is said to have received the Ten Commandments from God. The ailing priest wasn't sure he could make the ascent. But he told himself, 'Joenax, you'll regret it if you don't try."

It was an arduous five-hour climb that started in the wee hours. Not a few gave up. "I wanted to die right there and find answers at last to my questions about the struggle between good and evil."

He made it to the top just in time to behold sunrise from the sacred mountain. "I just bathed in the breeze and the light and in the wonder and the glory. This was what awe meant. I felt I was embracing the world and the world was embracing me."

A voice told him: "Don't be afraid. You can do anything."

Soon after, he settled into a California parish run by the La Salette missionaries. There, he quietly ministered to a predominantly Hispanic community. Back home in the Philippines, little was heard about him. Many who knew that he had fallen sick earlier thought he had passed away.

Peace vision

"Today, I am not necessarily cancer-free, but it has been more than 10 years since I was told I was dying," Nacu said.

He is not just walking and breathing; he is behind the newly established Institute of Reconciliation in Silang, Cavite. The institute operates in collaboration with the University of La Salette. Inaugurated on Sunday, it offers both degree and nondegree courses and modules in Conflict Transformation and Reconciliation.

It is "a gathering place," "a venue for peace," as reflected in the extraordinary courses—Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR), Conflict Resolution, Conflict Management, Arbitration, Forgiveness, Reconciliation.

"During the Marcos regime," Nacu mused, "I accepted the legitimacy of armed struggle for the return of democracy. Today, I have outgrown that stand. I believe armed struggle will just perpetuate the cycle of violence. Our institute's vision is: peace on earth, justice for all. Our mission: to reconcile. Peace by peaceful means."

(Contact joenax@msn.com or check out www.instituteofreconciliation.org.)

MARCOS and his information minister, Francisco Tatad.

IN THE KNOW

On this date in 1972, President Ferdinand E. Marcos signed Proclamation No. 1081, placing the entire country under martial law, purportedly to save Filipinos from communism and widespread crime and violence. Two days later, he appeared on national television to explain his decision, and sought the public's cooperation.

The proclamation was precipitated by an attempt, allegedly by communists, to assassinate then Minister of National Defense Juan Ponce Enrile. But as Enrile himself would admit after Marcos' downfall in 1986, the attempted assassination had been staged.

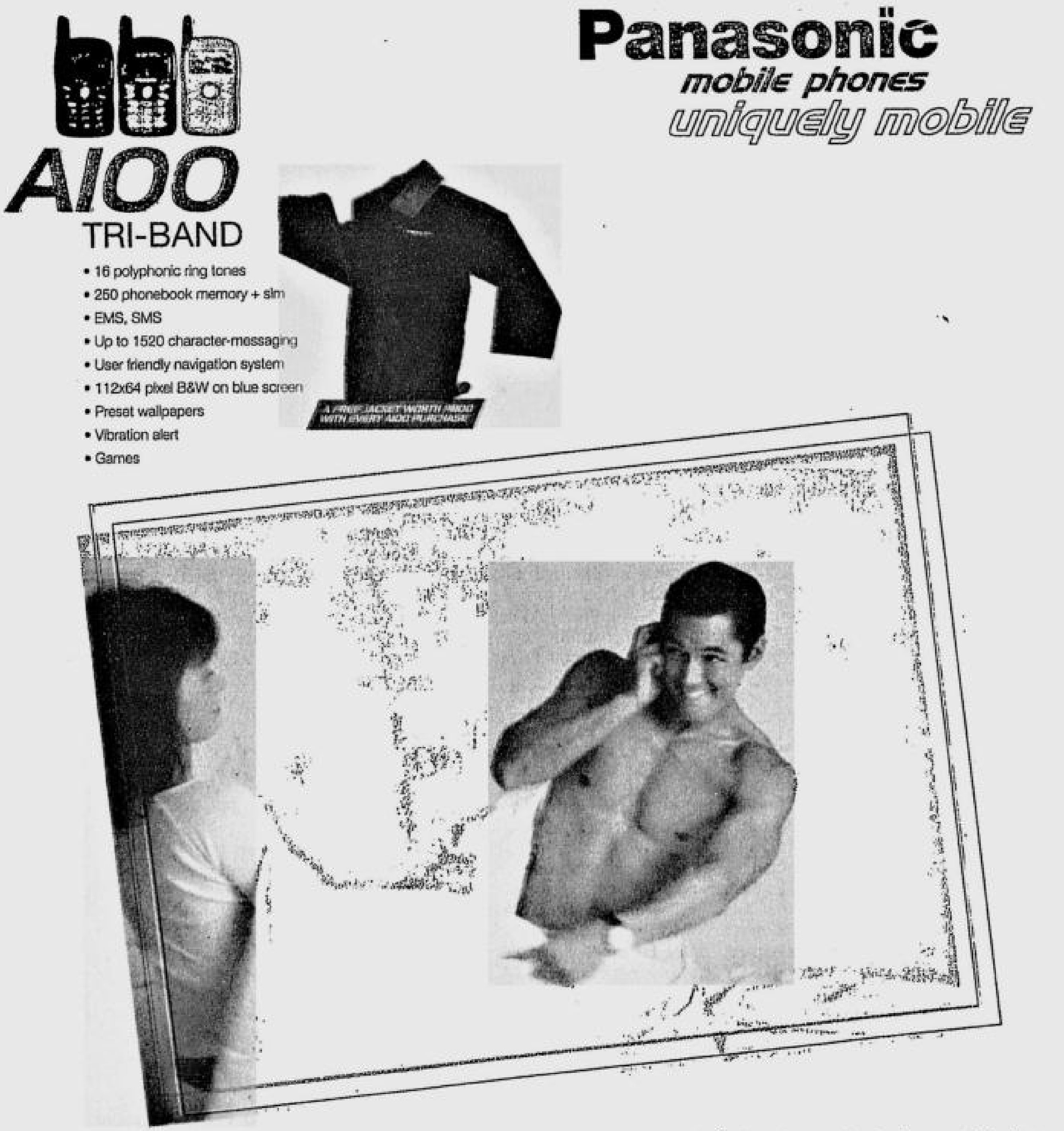
Under Marcos' orders, the military arrested key opposition figures, including Benigno Aquino Jr., Jose Diokno, and Joaquin Roces; journalists, students, labor activists, and criminal elements. A total of about 30,000 detainees were kept in military compounds secured by the Army and the Philippine Constabulary.

Marcos also ordered the takeover of all media firms, to prevent them from releasing "communist propaganda." Troops broke into radio and television stations, sealed and placed them under military control. All media outlets critical of the Marcos regime were shut down. The Filipinos' first experience of TV under martial law was a blank screen and intermittent appearances by Marcos and his Press Secretary, Francisco Tatad, reading edict after edict.

With the same stroke of his pen, Marcos closed Congress and assumed its legislative responsibilities.

During the martial law period—from 1972 to 1981—Marcos, invested with dictatorial powers, issued hundreds of presidential decrees, many of which were never published.

PDI Research



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Marcos diary bares lies on martial law

From page A1

lie that he told Congressmen Jose Aspiras and Carmelo Barbero in a diary that he kept from 1969 up till the months prior to his ouster in February 1986.

The entry under the dateline 1:45 a.m., Sept. 22, 1972, reads: "Delayed by the hurried visit of Joe Aspiras and Meling Barbero ... who want to know if there is going to be martial law in 48 hours as predicted by Benigno 'Ninoy' Aquino. Of course, Imelda and I denied it."

Right on target

It turned out that Aquino, an opposition senator whom Marcos described elsewhere in the same diary as "a congenital liar" and "compulsive chatterbox," had been right on target.

On Sept. 23, 1972, Marcos again wrote:

"Things have moved according to plan, although out of the total 200 target personalities in the plan, only 52 have been arrested, including the three senators, Aquino, [Jose] Diokno and [Ramon] Mitra, and [Manila Times publisher] Chino Roces and [Free Press publisher] Teddy Locsin. At 7 p.m., I finally appeared on a nationwide TV and radio broadcast to announce the proclamation of martial law, the general orders and instructions."

The dictator's journals were recovered from among boxes of documents that his family tried to spirit out of the country after they fled.

A copy was obtained by the Foundation for Worldwide People Power and used as reference material for the award-winning "Batas Militar: A Video Documentary on Martial Law in the Philippines" produced by the Foundation in 1997.

In his own handwriting, Marcos chronicled day-to-day events starting from July 4, 1969, four months before the start of his second presidential term. He recorded events, his impressions of foes and friends alike, activities and conversations with his wife Imelda and their children, Imee, Ferdinand Jr. and Irene.

He is believed to have kept a diary until his last days in Malacañang, but these pages have apparently been lost, or are being held by family members.

Dovie Beams

Marcos described some people more harshly than others. Dovie Beams, the Hollywood starlet who claimed she had an affair with him, was dismissed as "a psycho case and a blackmailer."

To major colleagues in the Nacionalista Party, the astute politician and strategist was unkind, to say the least. In January 1970, Marcos was worried about the dearth of presidential material from within the group. Vice President Fernando Lopez "is too old," he noted; Sen. Arturo Tolentino "has a background of promiscuity;" and the respected nationalist Sen. Jose W. Diokno "is self-centered and lacks humility."

No deserving challengers

Marcos was dismayed that there were no deserving challengers, either, in the opposition Liberal Party.

Sen. Gerardo Roxas "is a weakling," he wrote; Sen. Genaro Magsaysay "is brainless"; Sen. Jovito Salonga "is petty, pompous and a sanctimonius fraud."

Let alone "too old," Lopez, his own next-in-command, was battered in the journals—for instance, in the entry for Sept. 30, 1970: "I write this before I go to attend the testimonial dinner for the 20th year of government service of my Vice President who has been called quite varied names like 'nincompoop,' 'dullard,' 'blockhead,' 'fence-sitter,' '*sigurista*,' 'weakling' and worse."

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MATHAY

Ara Mina's dad trapped in CR with unidentified woman

By Ruth L. Navarra

HE WAS the perfect victim of wrong timing.

Former Quezon City Rep. Ishmael "Chuck" Mathay III never expected that his "visit" to an online gaming station would cause so much embarrassment.

Pasig City officials and reporters found, Mathay, the father of actress Ara Mina, in the office of E-Casino Filipino on Meralco Avenue. The city officials were carrying out the closure order for the gambling outlet yesterday morning.

Mathay rushed out of the office and went to an adjacent comfort room.

He and an unidentified woman spent 30 minutes inside the comfort room while city employees, and even reporters, cajoled him to get out as the place was set to be padlocked.

Mathay sought a compromise by saying he would only come out if all reporters waited outside the building. The reporters complied.

Ten minutes later, he hurriedly walked out to a waiting black car. When asked what he was doing there, he said in Filipino that he was "just visiting."

After several minutes, the woman emerged out of the building; her head covered by a white hanky.

Hyo Chom Kim, operations manager of E-Casino Filipino, carried some documents, a clutch bag and a Mild Seven box as he left.

Before that, he pulled the plugs of the computers and other electronic devices inside.

Pasig City Ordinance No. 20 prohibits gambling establishments from operating in the city, according to Councilor Bobby Eusebio.

Eusebio added that the casino misrepresented its application for business permit and license. He said it applied as an internet cafe but operated as an online casino.

DEMOLITION IN MARIKINA

6,000 families face eviction

By Luige A. del Puerto

RESETTLEMENT—a monumental task in Metro Manila—has been largely achieved in the city of Marikina. It is a major reason why this former Rizal town is today a bustling and vibrant city.

Recent developments, however, threaten this achievement.

About 6,000 to 10,000 families in the Tumana District, one of the city's largest resettlement sites, face eviction after the courts ruled with finality in favor of the land's original owners, documents obtained by the INQUIRER show.

The demolition order by Judge Liwliwa Hidalgo-Bucu dated Aug. 12, 2004, concluded a long legal battle between the city and Edgewater Realty Development Inc.

City officials and experts, however, say a demolition is unlikely.

They said the court ruling might force the city to settle with Edgewater, which may agree to seek a compromise since, in theory, it could not afford to "fight City Hall."

'No demolition'

Marci Teodoro, acting chief of the Marikina Settlement Office, said, "I don't think it (demolition) would happen at all."

Teodoro said that negotiations for a settlement were in the works long before the handing down of the court decision.

Edgewater accused the city of breaching the memorandum of agreement (MOA) it entered with the realty firm in 1994, and consequently sued the city.

Under the agreement, the city would resettle its squatter population in Tumana, which is around 38 hectares. In return, the city acts as the originator—tasked to identify the residents, develop the area and facilitate the payment of the land.

The project was supposed to be entered into the Community Mortgage Program.

In 1997, Judge Justo M. Sultan said the city had not kept its end of the bargain.

The names and number of families relocated in the area were not properly documented. No list or inventory of the sites or location of each family was made, according to the judge.

"More importantly," Sultan said, "the plaintiff's right to the property was grossly violated in the process, for the defendant has in effect appropriated said property without due compensation."

Now squatters

The judge then rescinded the MOA, which turned residents in Tumana into squatters.

He then ordered the removal of the structures in district.

Appeals by the city in higher courts were dismissed one after the other.

In 1998, the Supreme Court affirmed a Court of Appeals decision, and denied the city's motion for reconsideration with finality.

On Aug. 27, 2004, Judge Alice Gutierrez of Marikina issued a writ of execution of the court's earlier decision. She reaffirms the order for the city to pay Edgewater a monthly rental of around ₱1.5 million since April 1994.

The city was also directed to compensate the realty firm with P65 million for the use of Farmers 1, the area's main road.

If the city cannot pay the judgment amount, then the Court Sheriff is tasked to levy the goods and properties of the city.

ERIK ARAZAS

MAYOR AGUILAR, HELP!
A resident of Manuela Subdivision in Las Piñas could only scratch his head as his house, as well as much of the community, remains submerged in floodwater long after recent downpours have stopped. Residents are now asking Mayor Imelda Aguilar for help.

Makati bans smoking in open areas

By Nancy C. Carvajal

GOOD news to commuters in Makati City who have to contend with smokers who could not care less in passing on second hand smoke.

Crowded places like waiting sheds, bus and jeepney terminals, walkways, and pedestrian overpasses and underpasses are now no smoking areas.

Mayor Jejomar Binay directed yesterday the police and other law enforcement authorities to apprehend persons who smoke in open public areas that are usually filled with people.

A fine ranging from P1,000 to 3,000 will be imposed on violators.

"The ban on smoking in public places is covered by both the Makati ordinance and national law," Binay said.

The mayor also reminded building administrators not to allow smoking in their buildings except in areas approved by the city.

Owners of buildings or establishments where the violation is committed will also be liable to the penalty of closure and revocation of business permit or license.

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Rep. Diaz lied

ON TARGET
Ramon Tulfo

ZAMBALES Rep. Antonio Diaz blames the media for reports that he maligned his colleagues at the House of Representatives.

Diaz said he was resigning from Congress because it was "no longer honorable to serve in this body."

He was correctly quoted there. But Diaz said he was just "misunderstood."

Misunderstood? Did he or didn't he say what he was quoted as having said?

Diaz said that what he meant was that "no matter what good we have done, we are still bad (before the media) so this letter of resignation was made."

It was a simple case of him having left out some words in the letter.

***

If Diaz thinks that he was able to make a good explanation to his colleagues when he changed his mind and no longer would resign, he's mistaken.

Many congressmen's pride was hurt by Diaz's bad-mouthing of the august body.

They're not satisfied with his explanation that he was "misunderstood."

They're not as stupid as Diaz.

***

The only way to stop cell phone snatchings and holdups is to address the root of the problem: the fences. A fence is a business establishment or person that buys stolen goods.

There are many fences along Recto Avenue in Manila, at the Arranque Market and Divisoria, also in Manila; and the Cubao shopping area in Quezon City.

These fences most likely enjoy police protection.

Remove the fences and the well from which thieves and robbers draw their money from will dry up.

A city mayor in Mindanao who was able to solve rampant incidents of cell phone snatchings and holdups gives this advice: If two or three notorious fences are executed, the problem will be solved immediately.

The dirty tricks department of the police can take care of the fences.

***

A fence at the Arranque Market not only buys stolen goods, he personally robs people of their cell phones that he then sells in his store.

Rodrigo Silverio, owner of a stall at the Arranque Market, was positively identified by his two victims, Arvin Ailee Genato and Dave Rex Perejan, both in their early 20s.

Genato and Perejan were waiting for a ride home when they were held up by knife-wielding men in Sta. Rosa, Laguna, on July 4.

Genato was stabbed in the back when he refused to hand over his cell phone to the armed men. He nearly died from the stab wound.

How was Silverio identified? Through the getaway car that's registered in his name. The address given by Silverio in the registration papers is at the Arranque Market.

Silverio is now in hiding after this column published his identity. The police seem disinterested in going after him.

METROBRIEFS

Road ends for 3 suspects

THREE of four suspected robbers who staged a series of heists in Quezon City were killed in a shootout with lawmen early yesterday morning. The fourth suspect, who was believed wounded, commandeered a taxi and managed to flee. Police said the suspects shot it out with members of the Special Weapons and Tactics team at about 3:30 p.m. outside the Tropical Hut Food Center on Congressional Road near Mindanao Avenue, which it had just robbed. *Tina G. Santos*

Manila joins red plate watch

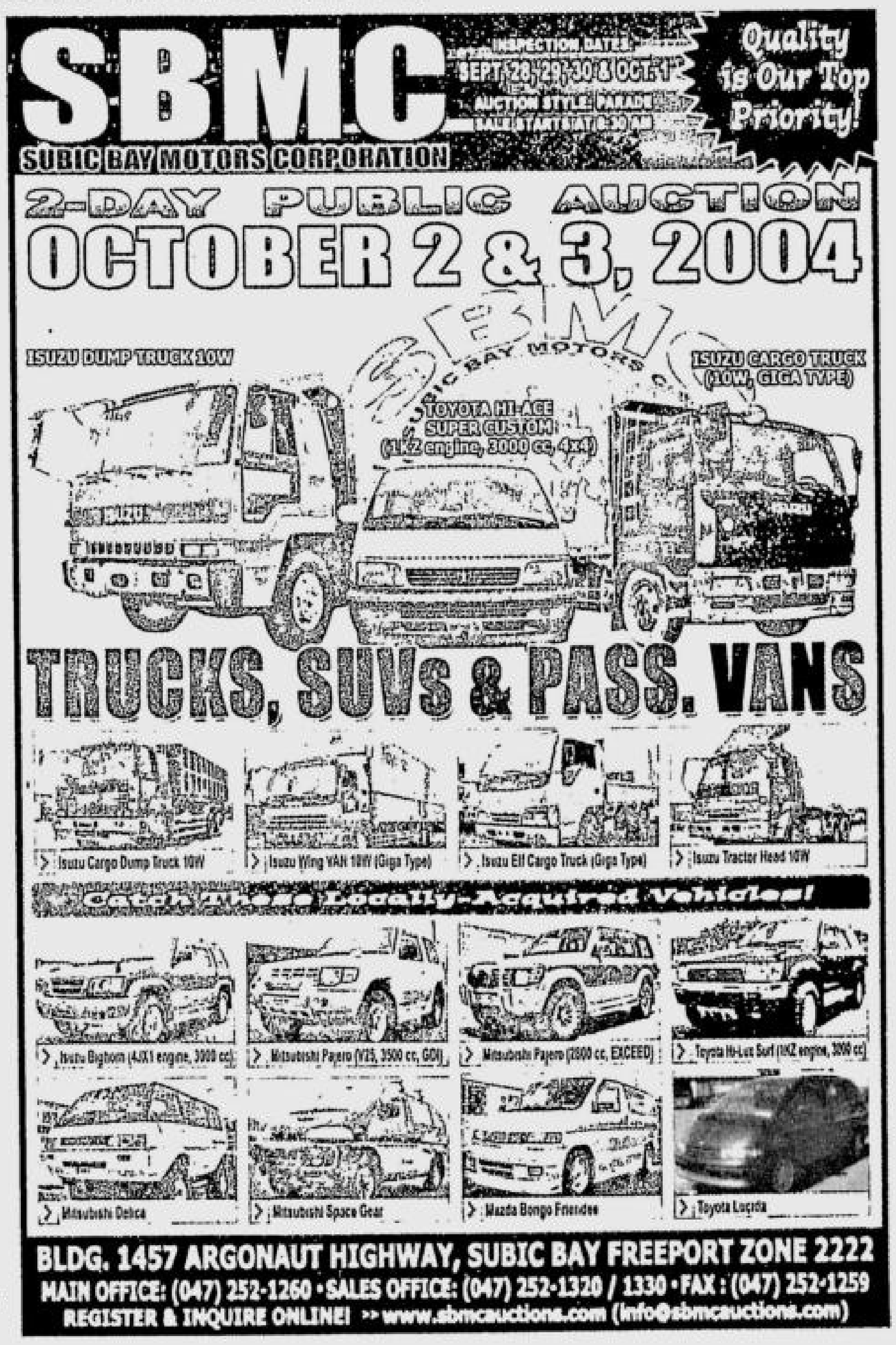
THE MANILA City Hall has asked its departments to report on the status of their vehicles before the month ends as it joined the campaign to prevent the use of government or red plate vehicles for private use. In a memorandum, the City Administrator's office asked city officials and personnel to account for city-owned vehicles issued them. The report should indicate the vehicle type, the users, the condition of the vehicle and where it is used. *Tarra V. Quismundo*

Rolling precinct conks out

IT WAS an almost perfect launching of a good project had one of the four satellite police stations not suffered a malfunctioning brake. The rolling police station deployed in Monumento, Caloocan City, had to be sent back to the garage for repairs. Nonetheless, the police station on wheels deployed by the National Capital Region Police Office to Baclaran in Parañaque, Ortigas Center in Pasig City, and Cubao in Quezon City worked fine. The mobile stations are manned by at least 16 policemen. *Edson C. Tandoc Jr.*

37 fall in phone theft drive

AT LEAST 37 suspected cellular phone robbers were arrested in a drive launched by the police in Manila, and the Northern and Southern Police Districts. Twenty of the suspects were nabbed in operations in Manila. Manila police director Chief Supt. Pedro Bulaong said several of those arrested were nabbed in the University Belt in Sampaloc and in the popular shopping district of Divisoria. The SPD arrested 10 suspects in a sweep in the cities of Makati, Las Piñas, Parañaque and the town of Taguig. Meanwhile, at the other end of the metropolis, the NPD men arrested seven suspects. *Leila B. Salaverria, Nancy C. Carvajal and Edson C. Tandoc Jr.*



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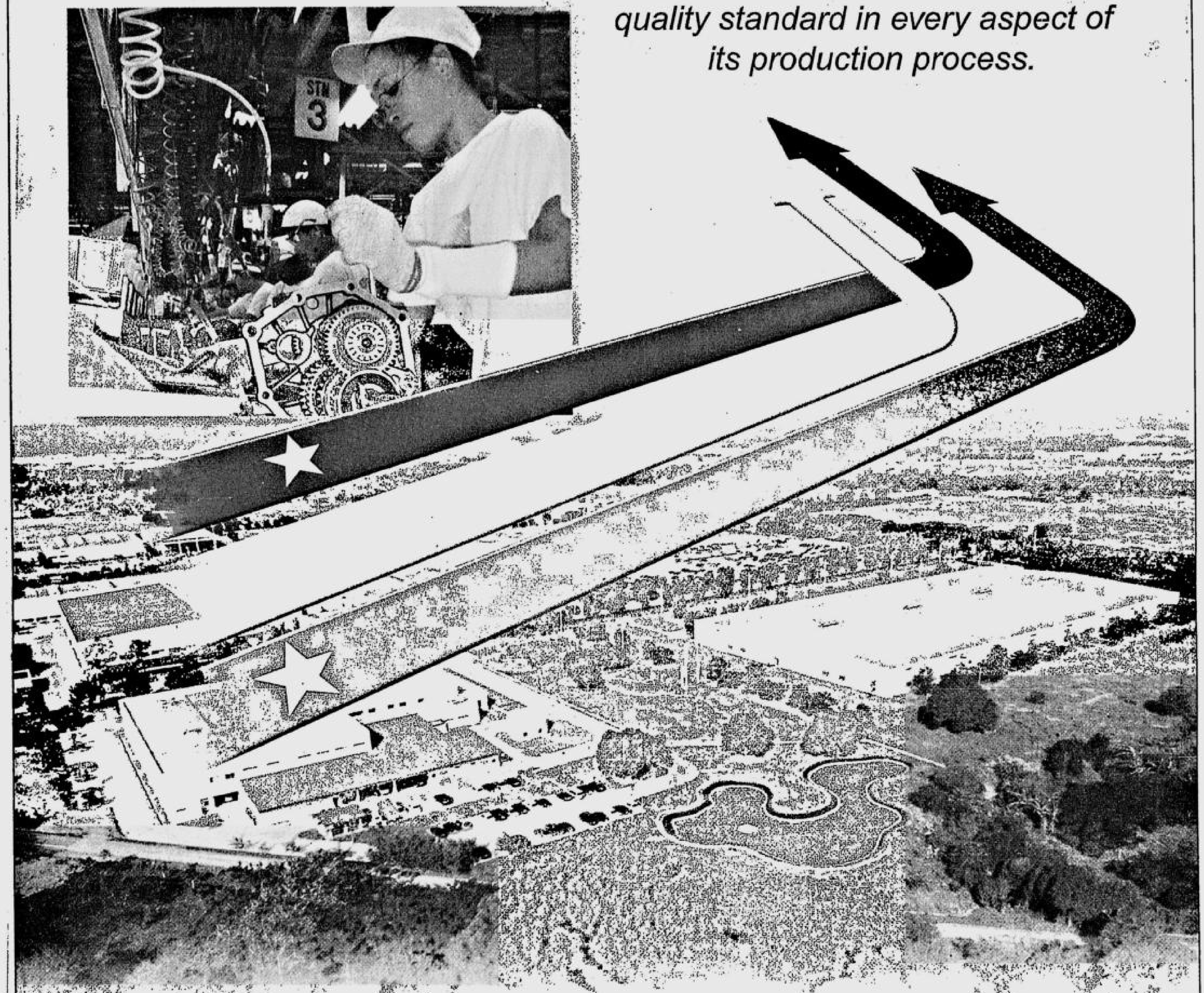

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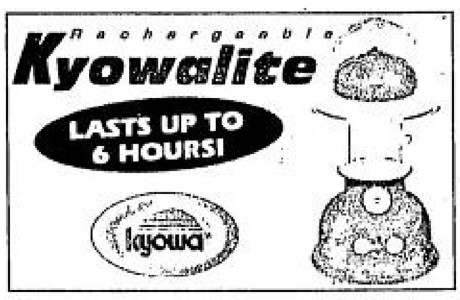
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MARK Paragua, the country's sixth GM, steals from Eugene Torre the distinction as youngest Filipino to obtain the title.

Paragua nails down GM title

INTERNATIONAL Master Mark Paragua outplayed Russian Grandmaster Veniamen Shtyrenkov in the 14th and penultimate round of the Alushta Tournament in Crimea, Ukraine, Sunday to complete his GM requirement and become the sixth and youngest Filipino ever to achieve the title.

The victory pushed the 20-year-old Paragua's total to a tournament-leading 10 points, enough to clinch his third and final GM result.

Paragua next faces Ukraine's Yuriy Kuzubov, who

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Priority urged for 16 sports

By Marc Anthony Reyes

IT'S TIME to prioritize Philippine sports.

If the House of Representatives were to have its way, it would pick just 16 sports disciplines where training and funds will be poured into in preparation for the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

Bacolod Rep. Monico Puentevella, senior deputy chair of the House committee on youth and sports, said yesterday he has made a recommendation to President Macapagal-Arroyo that priority be given only to events where "the performance of our athletes can approximate Olympic standards."

Among the choice sports are athletics, swimming with diving, lawn tennis, badminton, fencing, shooting, boxing, table tennis, weightlifting, archery, taekwondo, cycling, judo, karate-do, wrestling and equestrian.

All the other sports, according to Puentevella, may be sponsored by the Philippine Sports Commission for development purposes in view of the forthcoming 2006 Asian Games in Doha, Qatar, and 2005 Southeast Asian Games here.

"I believe that these recommendations are in line with our thrust to maximize our limited resources to its full potential," said Puentevella in his letter to the President.

Malacañang, through First Gentleman Mike Arroyo, has already pledged to help raise funds for the 2005 SEA Games training of at least 500 athletes from 34 sports.

The recommendation, according to Puentevella, was also made in the wake of the Athens Games last month where the 16-man RP team again failed to land a medal.

"We were able to avoid finger-pointing during our recent Olympic participation. I will not call it a debacle because of the gallant stand of our athletes, but I am very confident that we can do better next time if these suggestions are to be implemented," he said.

Also included in the recommendation was the transfer of responsibilities in the hosting of the Palarong Pambansa from the PSC back to the Department of Education.

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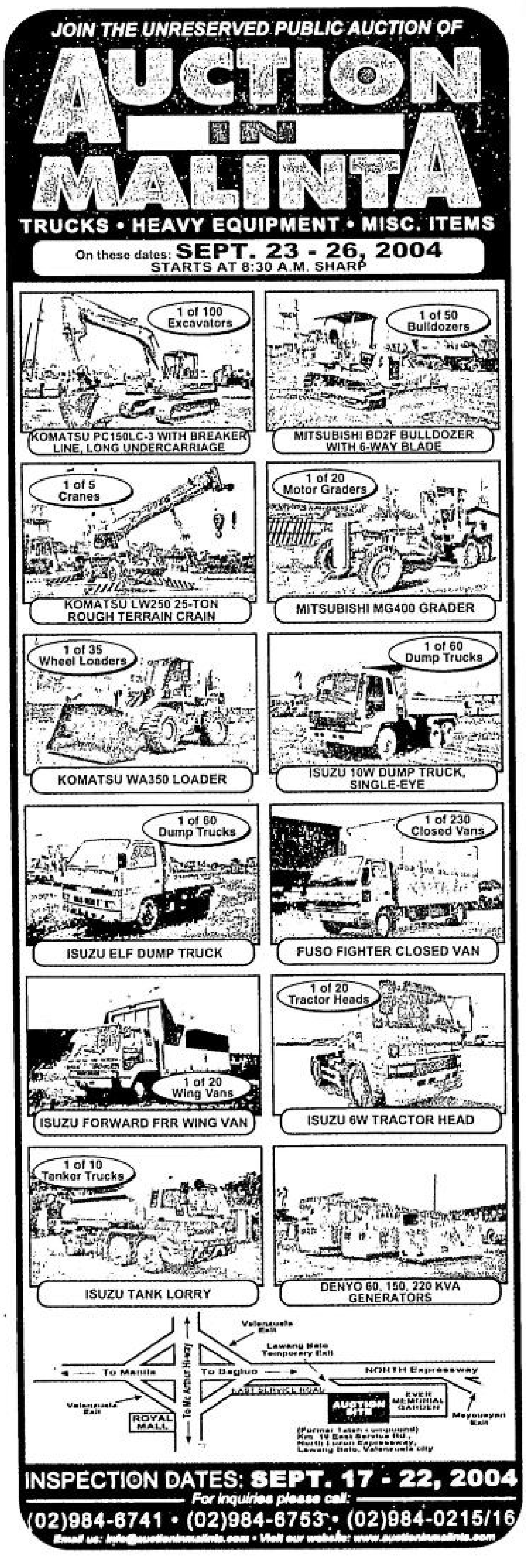
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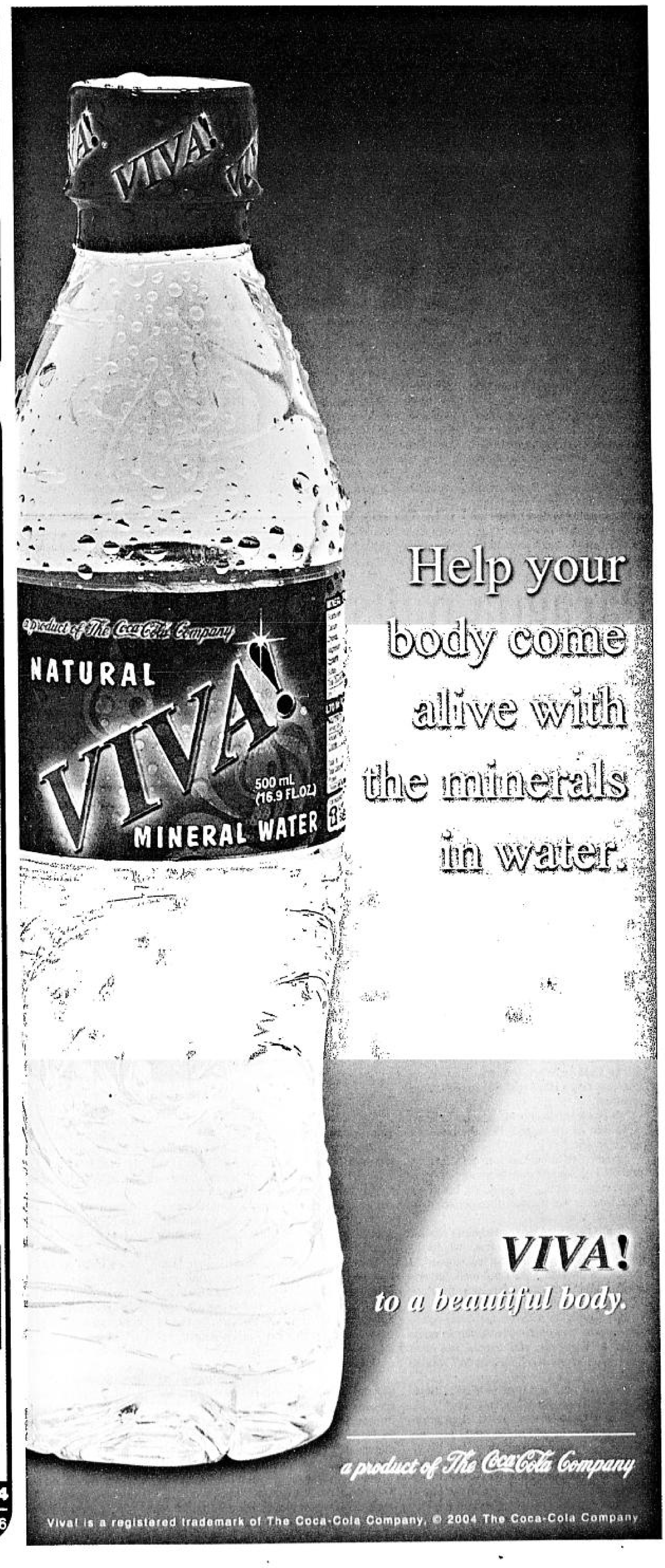
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Peñalosa comes back big

MANDAUE CITY—Former World Boxing Council super flyweight king Gerry Peñalosa was hardly tested in his comeback fight Sunday, putting away Thai Samingkao Chutipol in less than two rounds in the mainer of the "Out for Blood" card here.

Peñalosa chased the bewildered Thai right at the opening bell with solid body shots.

Peñalosa (now 47-5-2, 32 KOs) decked the Thai twice in the second round before referee Teddy Alivio halted the fight when the Filipino faked a shot to the body and the Thai fell to the canvas even without actually absorbing a blow.

In the co-feature, former WBC flyweight champion Malcolm Tuñacao struggled for 10 rounds before prevailing by unanimous decision over Mindanao's Bernard Oclus. *Salven L. Lagumbay*

Rousing send-off for Spring cagers

SPRING Cooking Oil-Laguna dropped a 16-4 bomb in the third quarter en route to an 81-72 victory over Forward Taguig at the C.P. Tinga gym Sunday night on the eve of its departure for the Sultan Cup invitational basketball tournament in Brunei.

Lanky forward Rodel Manuel combined with 6-foot-9 Faheem Nelson to erase Taguig's 50-48 lead and power the Cooking Oil Masters to a 62-50 advantage going into the final canto.

"I had a long flight, but I'm ready to play," said Nelson, who will reinforce Spring-Laguna together with 6-6 Keith Friel in the Brunei cagefest.

The team of NBC president Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla and Laguna Gov. Teresita Lazaro left yesterday afternoon. Spring-Laguna was pitted against Chinese-Taipei's Choun Tzu Yu Lon last night.

The team was led by NBC sec-gen Tito Palma, Dennis Lazaro, Dennis Villa-Ignacio and Vic Sanchez. The members are playing coach Mike Buendia, Nani Epondulan, Marlon Kalaw, Chris Corbin, Rodel Manuel, Mike Garcia, Mar Reyes, Robin Mendoza, Danny Capobres and Christian Nicdao.

After taking that 12-point lead, the Cooking Oil Masters never looked back.

Also playing in the Brunei cagefest are Red Bull Barako and Purefoods of the PBA, Shanghai Sharks, TG Sambo Xers and the Taiwanese.

The scores:

LAGUNA 81—Epondulan 15, Nelson 14, Manuel 10, Reyes 7, Garcia 6, Capobres 6, Kalaw 5, Mendoza 4, Serrano 2, Caceres 0, Buendia 0.

TAGUIG 72—Gumalay 17, Robillos 11, Magsambol 8, Bernardino 8, Ricafuente 7, Reyes 4, Roldan 4, Alberto 3, Gobon 2, De Guia 0, Vilar 0.

Quarters: 20-16, 44-40, 62-50, 81-72.

Koreans squirm past Phone Pals

By June Navarro

JIMMY Alapag bungled a jumper shortly before the buzzer, allowing the visiting SK Telecom Knights to escape with an 89-88 squeaker over the Talk 'N Text Phone Pals at the Philsports Arena Sunday night.

The Knights notched their first victory after absorbing consecutive setbacks against Sta. Lucia Realty, Coca-Cola and Shell in the ongoing PBA-Korean Basketball League goodwill series.

"I had a clear view of the basket," said Alapag of what could have been the winning shot. Still he matched the team-high 16 points of slotman Mark Telan.

Jayjay Helterbrand also did an Alapag in the other game as the match between Barangay Ginebra and the SBS Stars ended in a draw, 94-all.

Helterbrand flubbed a medium-range jumper following Miguel Noble's undergoal miss that could have sealed the victory for the injury-plagued Gin Kings.

Ginebra's Andy Seigle didn't show up after pulling his left hamstring in practice while Eric Menk is recuperating from a shoulder injury.

Chris Lang lorded it over in the paint, barreling in for 23 of his 33 points in the final half for the Knights as he mocked the defense of Asi Taulava, Mark Telan and Yancy de Ocampo.

The Phone Pals came back from a double-digit deficit and engaged the Koreans in a shooting contest before Lang threw his weight in the paint.

The Gin Kings also rallied from 36-52 at halftime and even led, 69-66, as Mark Caguioa scored 12 of his 22 points in the third quarter.

The Gin Kings had possession with eight ticks left but Noble and Helterbrand missed successively as time expired.

JIMMY Alapag's missed jumper seals Talk 'N Text's defeat. PDI PHOTO

First Game

SK KNIGHTS 89—Lang 33, White 19, Chun 18, Cho 5, Lee 4, Huang 4, Chun 3, Kim 2, Park 1.

TALK 'N TEXT 88—Alapag 16, Telan 16, Miller 14, Taulava 10, Camaso 7, Ravena 6, Pablo 6, Belano 6, De Ocampo 4, Salansang 2.

Quarters: 25-16, 36-39, 63-64, 89-88.

Second Game

GINEBRA 94—Caguioa 22, Salvacion 17, Adducul 12, Santos 11, Calpito 8, David 6, Helterbrand 5, Noble 4, Basco 4, Misolas 2.

SBS STARS 94—Bunn 37, Dartez 21, Kim 14, Yoon 8, So 8, Eun 3, Hong 2, Lee 1, Yoon 0, Park 0, Shin 0.

Quarters: 23-all, 36-52, 69-66, 94-all.

SBC Cubs close in on No. 15

GAMES TOMORROW (*Araneta Coliseum*)
2 p.m.—SBC vs Letran (Jrs.-Game 2 Finals)
3:30 p.m.—Awarding Ceremonies
4 p.m.—Perpetual vs PCU (Srs-G2 Finals)

By Jasmine W. Payo

THE SAN Beda Cubs are a win from an unprecedented 15 junior championship titles.

James Martinez fired a game-high 18 points to lead the defending champions past the Letran Squires, 87-77, in Game 1 of the NCAA junior basketball Finals yesterday at the Rizal Coliseum.

Most valuable player frontrunners Rogemar Menor (14 points, 13 rebounds) and Jay-R Taganas (10 points, 15 rebounds) starred for the Cubs, who are gunning for their third straight title.

Long-time San Beda coach Ato Badolato, however, is wary of the only team that defeated the Cubs in the eliminations.

"Letran is capable of coming back. We have to prepare extra hard for Wednesday," said Badolato.

Letran had pulled within two, 48-46, in the third period when Martinez and Eduardo Tecson Jr. sparked San Beda's 18-2 assault.

The scores:

Game 1 (Jrs)

SAN BEDA 87—Martinez, 18, Menor 14, Hermida 14, Tecson 10, Taganas 10, Castillo 7, Guillermo 6, Victorino 4, Canlas 2, Ferrer 2.

LETRAN 77—Ruiz 16, Tagarda 16, Dizon 14, Rosopa 8, Musni 7, Martin 7, Cabarrubia 4, Garland 3, Latonio 2, Dy 0, De Mesa 0.

Quarters: 27-18, 46-39, 71-56, 87-77.

SPORTSWATCH

Unbeaten Mayol fights Indon today

REIGNING Oriental and Pacific Boxing Federation minimumweight champion Rodel Mayol tries to preserve his unbeaten slate when he takes on OPBF No. 3 contender La Syukur in a 10-round battle in Indonesia today. Mayol, who is undefeated in 18 fights with 14 KOs, is gearing up for a title defense next month in Manila. Mayol's October OPBF defense will be co-promoted by Lope "Jun" Sarreal Jr. and Mayol's manager Josephine Ouano. The Mandaue City-raised Mayol is ranked No. 2 in the WBC and No. 6 both in the WBA and IBF. He is rated No. 8 by the WBO. Mayol last saw action on May 21, prevailing by technical decision after seven rounds over ex-WBC International champ Ernesto Rubillar at The Fort's NBC Tent. *Salven L. Lagumbay*

Balce, Saraza lead Milo tennis advance

MARK Balce routed Von Dellaban, 6-2, 6-1, and Kim Ivor Saraza blanked Mark Dubouzet, 6-0, 6-0, last weekend at the start of the 2004 Milo Junior Tennis Cup at the Philam Homes clay courts. Balce advanced to the South Luzon Regional Finals of the boys' 14-under division along with Tomic Apacible, who beat Gerald Ngo, 0-6, 7-6, 6-2; Raymond Padigos, who ousted Juan Regis, 7-5, 1-6, 6-2; and Bobby Chio, who routed Albert Baldera, 6-2, 6-1. In the boys' 12-under class of the tournament organized by CTW and backed by adidas and Malaysia Airlines, Jose Lorenzo Ferrer edged Alberto Villamor, 6-2, 1-6, 6-3; Joseph Baldonado whipped Juan Gabriel Peña, 6-2, 3-6, 6-3; and Kyle Cordero ousted Kevin Mamawal, 6-1, 6-1.

MILO Best Laguna clinic starts Oct. 2

MILO Best Center's basketball program kicks off this October in Sta. Cruz, Laguna. Classes will be held every Saturday until Nov. 6 at 1 to 5 p.m. Venue will be at Don Bosco High School Gym. The program (Level 1) is open to boys and girls nine years old and above. For reservations and more details, interested parties can call (049) 5360501 or call/text 09194628820.

MCC club chess tournament slated

THE METROPOLITAN Chess Club Team tournament reels off on Oct. 16-17 at the J&F Divino Bldg., 967 Aurora Blvd. near LRT 2 Anonas Station in Quezon City. More than P70,000 is at stake in this two-day competition, which will use the seven-round Swiss time control. Open to all chess associations and clubs all over the country, each team is composed of three regular players and one alternate. The team's average rating must not exceed 2000. A team can field one master who will play in board one only. The alternate member must play at least four of the seven games. For details and requests for invitations, please call 8268560 and 09168521069. Registration fee is pegged at P3,000 per team.

White Rock triathlon goes to Olongapo

THE WHITE Rock Triathlon long distance race kicks off Oct. 9 in Olongapo City. The race will start with a 2-km swim at the beach front of White Rock Beach Resort that will head toward Snakie Island and back. The 90-km bike flat route will pass through the six scenic towns. The 21-km run will be along the National Highway and Magsaysay Blvd. of Olongapo City. Extreme Multi-Sports Group Inc. ensures the safety of participants. Cash prize and medals will await the first three winners of the Open (male/female), Age Group (male/female), and Team Relay-Open categories. Interested parties can call (632) 4399874 or eimperio@tri-isys.com. Sept. 25 is the deadline for registration.

Cavite Coliseum hosts 5-stag derby

A POWERHOUSE team of Metro Manila cockers will challenge their counterparts in Cavite and Laguna, when the much-awaited Unang Paanyaya 5-Stag Derby unfolds today at the Cavite Coliseum. More than 80 big-time fights are scheduled in this special event to be hosted by Sen. Ramon Revilla, former PBA commissioner Rudy Salud, Vice Mayor Nestor Mercado, Lito Orillaza and William Co. The guaranteed prize at stake is a whopping 500,000 while entry fee is P15,000. Coliseum manager Roger del Rosario said that today's event will start at 5 p.m. For other inquiries, please contact (046)9704810 and (046)9700091.

Pasay cockfight set Sept. 28

ABOUT 140 participants, mostly small-time cockers and breeders, are expected to compete in the upcoming 2-Cock Super Ulutan on Sept. 28 at the Pasay City Cockpit. The guaranteed prize is a whopping P300,000 with an entry fee of only P2,200. The hosts of the event are partners Kags Paliza and Aba Badiola. Registration of entries will start as early as 7 a.m. while the first fight is set at 8 a.m. Interested parties may contact 8431890, 8431746 and 8166750. Paliza and Badiola will also host the Maliitan Lang 4-Stag Derby on Oct. 20 at the Pasay Cockpit. Entry fee is P7,700 with a guaranteed prize of P300,000. Screening of entries is every Sunday, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. with Eric dela Rosa as official screener.

Paragua nails down GM title

From page A17

has also secured three norms and at 14 years old will be the world's second youngest GM in history.

The Filipino will put away his second straight crown in Ukraine with a victory over Kuzubov. Paragua also ruled the first leg of the three-tournament Alushta series last week.

Before Paragua, Eugene Torre held the distinction as the youngest Filipino to attain the GM title. Asia's first GM was 22 when he clinched the title in the 1974 World Chess Olympiad in Nice, France.

"I'm glad Mark has done it," said Torre, longtime vanguard of Philippine chess. "It shows that we are slowly catching up with the other countries in developing talents."

According to the Fide handbook, a player who scores 10 points in 14 rounds can obtain a GM norm provided he has faced at least seven titled players, including three GMs, from no less than five federations.

Ric Paragua, Mark's father, said through an e-mail that the organizers informed them about this requirement before his match with Shtyrenkov, a fact confirmed by international arbiter Gene Poliarco.

Paragua has faced 13 titled players in the 16-man event, beating all three GMs along the way.

He scalped GMs Ramil Hasangatin and Andrey Nikitin, both of Russia, successively in the fifth and sixth rounds.

The Tondo, Manila-born Paragua earned his first GM norm in the 2001 Mondariz Open, a Swiss system event where he tied for first.

He will be proclaimed a full-pledged GM during the Fide Congress next month in Majorca, Spain, coinciding with the World Chess Olympiad.

In recognition of his recent explosive form, Paragua has been seeded to the RP Olympiad team along with GMs Torre and Rogelio Antonio Jr.

Hector Tagaysay, Paragua's main benefactor who heads Filway Marketing, saw it coming.

"When I first supported Mark's career I knew he'd be a world-beater. It's his destiny," said Tagaysay.

National Chess Federation of the Philippines (NCFP) board chair and Quezon City 3rd district Rep. Mat Defensor is happy for Paragua.

"*Ipinangako niya na hindi siya uuwi hanggat hindi* GM (He vowed not to come back without the GM title)," Defensor said.

Antonio became a GM in 1990 followed by Bong Villamayor in 2000 and Nelson Mariano II only recently. The late Rosendo Balinas Jr. was the country's second GM, achieving the title in 1976. *Marlon Bernardino, Contributor*

Oldie but goldie

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

HE HAS always been branded as one who has fattened his 44-2-1 record fighting nobodies, except for Felix Trinidad and Roy Jones Jr.

But how would you explain his destruction of Oscar De La Hoya on Sunday?

Bernard Hopkins was the 2-1 favorite to defeat De La Hoya. When he knocked him out, no less than De La Hoya paid tribute to Hopkins' greatness.

"He is a great champion," said De La Hoya. "Give him all the respect. He's the best middleweight ever."

Hopkins' 9th-round knockout of De La Hoya was his 19th straight title defense in an undisputed reign spanning 11 years. Yet, before the fight, Hopkins was the most disrespected champion of all time.

On this particular Sunday, Hopkins surprised everybody when he came to box, abandoning his usual infighting stance that had stopped 31 opponents, including the celebrated, hitherto unbeaten Felix Trinidad a while back. Trinidad's KO defeat had sent him to retirement.

After scoring his 45th win and 32nd knockout, Hopkins was uncharacteristically in praise of De La Hoya, who, until Sunday, has never been knocked out in a 37-4-0 record, with 29 knockouts.

"He didn't run," said Hopkins of De La Hoya. "He's good. Never slowed down. Crafty."

Because De La Hoya didn't run, Hopkins decided to come to him in the ninth, and was promptly rewarded with a KO win.

Before that, there wasn't really much action atop the ring. Only thrice maybe did the two exchanged some sharp punches from the first to eighth. But neither was hurt and, in the fifth and sixth, the crowd booed them. Both seemed content with fighting a cautious fight.

The turning point came in the break before the seventh. In the interval, Bouie Fisher, Hopkins' 76-year-old, hard-of-hearing trainer, whose trademark toothpick lodged in the left corner of his mouth rivals Boy Manuel's patented matchstick sticking out from his mouth even when he's asleep, told Hopkins: "Don't wait for him."

Thus, from the seventh to the eighth, Hopkins became the aggressor, connecting with combinations to easily win both rounds. In the eighth alone, Hopkins scored repeatedly and, although he got hit by a hard right in the face as the round ended, he repaired to his corner smiling.

He knew victory was at hand.

True enough as Hopkins, even though he was the defending champion, pursued his aggressive posture early in the ninth. Going into the middle of the round, he tripled his attack. He flicked a left to the forehead of De La Hoya, dug another left to the rib cage and next unleashed yet another left to the face.

One jab, followed by two quick left hooks. The hook to the rib cage was the killer.

De La Hoya crumpled as he went down like a mugging victim in a gangland alley in the face of severe punishment from pipe-wielding punks in the dead of night.

De La Hoya was a pitiful sight as he lay in excruciating pain even as the referee had long finished his count. He rolled over twice in pain and then, realizing he lost the one big fight he had fondly called the "defining moment" of his illustrious career, he pounded the canvas like a bawling kid deprived of his ice cream on a cone at the park, his face buried in the mat.

It marked one of the greatest fights where neither fighter suffered lumps, nor ugly cuts, in the face. It became an internal affair, the damage on De La Hoya inflicted bodily.

When the end came at 1:38, the pro-De La Hoya crowd was stunned as the Roman soldiers watching the parting of the Red Sea.

De La Hoya was not bewildered but he was angry.

"I couldn't get up," De La Hoya said. "I tried. He caught me. He got me right on the button."

He was not only beaten, he was also shamed by a fighter very much older than him. Hopkins is 39, turning 40 in January.

"If I am still the champ by January," said Hopkins, "it's time to retire. I made a promise to my mom that once I reach 40, I'm going to hang up my gloves."

Who said ex-convicts never listen to their mother?

When asked if it was time to retire, De La Hoya, not yet 35, said: "I like boxing very much. I can't say if it's time to retire."

If there should be a rematch before January, I'll have no second thoughts picking Hopkins the winner again.

As they say, some people get better as they get older.

PCA PRESENTER Basilan Gov. Muslim "Wahab" Akbar (right) signs the agreement to present the 23rd PCA Open Tennis Championships from Nov. 11-21 at the PCA shell courts. Joining him is PCA managing director Jess Capulong.

Pagunsan, Bibat head world amateur team

By Musong R. Castillo

JUVIC Pagunsan, the country's amateur ace, and newly crowned Singapore Amateur champ Michael Bibat expectedly clinched yesterday the top two berths in the Philippine golf team competing in the World Amateur Championship in Puerto Rico next month.

The National Golf Association of the Philippines also picked Frances Bondad, Jayvee Agojo and Anya Tanpinco to represent the women's squad.

Reigning national champion Jun Bernis and Artemio Murakami were named as alternates of the men's team. Their counterparts in the women's division are Lora Roberto and Carmelette Villaroman.

"We have a fighting team that will play its hardest for flag and country," said retired admiral Luisito Fernandez, who will be the men's non-playing captain.

"We will be playing against the best in the world, and what we have is a team that can take on that challenge."

The NGAP board, led by president Benny Gopez, finalized the lineups during a meeting yesterday after taking into account the results of the 144-hole, eight-day evaluation series and the inputs of coach Roger Retuerto and Putra Cup captain Jun Galindez.

The Philippines bagged third place behind the United States and France in Malaysia two years ago with a team composed of Pagunsan, Jherome Delariarte and Angelo Que.

Bondad is expected to arrive from Australia on Friday. Bondad, 16, is the reigning RP champion.

Hot Europeans seal Americans' ignominy

ROCK of Europe: Colin Montgomerie AP

BLOOMFIELD HILLS, Michigan—A rampaging Europe pulled off a sensational Ryder Cup victory when it crushed the all-star American team by a record-breaking 18 1/2 to 9 1/2 points here on Sunday.

The previous highest European winning margin had been 16 1/2 to 11 1/2 but that had been at the Belfry in Britain.

To come to the United States and overpower an American team led by Tiger Woods left the 40,000 US spectators in stunned silence.

The win was sealed in fairytale fashion when Colin Montgomerie, for so long the rock of the European team, drained the winning putt on the 18th green for a one-up win over gritty American David Toms that gave Europe the much-needed 14 1/2 points.

England's Lee Westwood earlier defeated Kenny Perry to make sure the Europeans retained the Cup.

It was a stunning win for Europe, which set it up on Saturday by taking an 11-5 lead.

American fans were given a glimmer of hope Sunday as the US led in all of the first five matches.

Woods ran over English rookie Paul Casey, 3 and 2, in the first match but Sergio Garcia came back from two down to beat Phil Mickelson, 3 and 2.

Darren Clarke trailed Davis Love by two but pulled off a sensational fight back to tie the match. *AFP*

Also winning for Europe: Padraig Harrington, 1 up over Jay Haas; Ian Poulter, 3-2 over Chris Riley; and Thomas Levet, 1 up over Fred Funk.

Posting victories for the US: Jim Furyk (6 and 4 over David Howell), Chad Campbell (5 and 3 over Luke Donald) and Chris DiMarco (1 up over Miguel Angel Jimenez).

Team concept lost on Yanks

BLOOMFIELD HILLS, Michigan—A lack of chemistry and charisma doomed the US to Ryder Cup failure, captain Hal Sutton said after his team absorbed the worst American beating in the event's 77-year history.

With more top 10 players and more major winners, the US was expected to reclaim the trophy they surrendered to the Europeans at the Belfry two years ago.

But like many of their putts, the Americans came up woefully short, humbled by a group of Europeans who gave the US a lesson in teamwork and camaraderie.

The Americans went about their business as if it were a regular stop on the PGA tour while the Europeans worked in seamless cohesion. *Reuters*

It's Han after playoff

PORTLAND, Oregon—Hee-Won Han made a 4-foot birdie putt on the first playoff hole to beat Lorie Kane and win the Safeway Classic on Sunday.

Han birdied the par-4 18th in regulation to force the playoff with Kane at the soggy Columbia Edgewater Country Club. The South Korean, who closed with a 5-under 67 for a 9-under 207 total, won her third LPGA Tour title.

Two-time defending champion Annika Sorenstam had a 70 and finished in a group two shots back at 7-under 209.

Grace Park birdied the 18th to finish with a 68, one stroke back at 8-under 208.

Filipino Jennifer Rosales closed out with a 71 after her horrible 77 Saturday and finished at 215. Fil-American Dorothy Delasin finished one stroke back at 216, also after a 71.

At No. 18 in the playoff, Han hit her approach shot within 4 feet, and Kane landed on the green about 80 feet from the hole. Kane's long birdie try narrowly missed, but she made an 8-footer for par. Han sank the winning birdie putt. *AP*

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION
MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING

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PREMIERE THEATRE

(DOLBY)	MINDHUNTERS R-13
1 (DOLBY)	13 GOING ON 30 PG-13
2 (DOLBY)	FENG SHUI PG-13
3 (DOLBY)	THE TERMINAL GP SNEAK PREVIEW: THE BOURNE SUPREMACY
4 (DOLBY)	EXORCIST : THE BEGINNING R-13

isetann SUPER CINERAMA
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3.	TAG-INIT
4.	EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING
5.	TAG-INIT

Gotesco Grand Central
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1	RESERVE
2	HAUNTED SPIRIT
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4 (SDDS)	TAG-INIT
5	FENG SHUI
6 (DOLBY)	ANACONDAS
7 (DTS)	EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING
8	RESERVE
9	RESERVE

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274

1	FENG SHUI
2	MIND HUNTERS
3	ANACONDAS

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Mandaluyong) tel 724.4986

1	RESERVE
2	RESERVE
3	PERLAS
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX)	EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING
5	FENG SHUI

METROPOLIS star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Alabang) tel 850.4285

1	MIND HUNTERS
2	TAG-INIT
3	FENG SHUI
4	ANACONDAS
5 (DOLBY)	EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING
6	13 GOING ON 30

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Las Pinas) tel (047) 237.7007

1 (DOLBY)	THUNDERBIRD
2	FENG SHUI

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DDS)	MIND HUNTERS
2 (SDDS)	EXORCIST THE BEGINNING
3 (DTS)	THE TERMINAL
4 GOLD (DTS)	DODGEBALL
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	FENG SHUI
6 GOLD (SDDS)	13 GOING ON 30
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	EXORCIST THE BEGINNING
8 [illegible]	FENG SHUI
9 [illegible]	THE NOTEBOOK
10 [illegible]	ANACONDAS

THE CENTER OF ENTERTAINMENT
Araneta Center
ALI MALL CINEPLEX
Tel. 911-3101 loc 8242 / 8281 / 8397

3 (Dolby)	FENG SHUI
4 (SDDS)	EXORCIST
5 (DTS)	ANACONDAS
6 (Dolby)	THE TERMINAL
7 (Dolby)	MIND HUNTERS

MARKETPLACE Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	FENG SHUI
2	EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING
3	RESERVED
4	GODSEND

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING
2	FENG SHUI
3 (DTS ES)	NEW JADE CINEMA GRAND OPENING
4	SEPTEMBER 16, 2004

Cine Nepo
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.0121

1	ANACONDAS
2	THE TERMINAL
3 (DOLBY)	FENG SHUI
4 (DTS)	EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING

Cine Nepo
(Dagupan City) tel (075) 515.8489

1	TOOLBOX MURDER
2	PRINCESS DIARIES
3 (DOLBY)	FENG SHUI
4 (DTS)	STEPFORD WIVES

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	ALIEN VS, PREDATOR
2	PRINCESS DIARIES

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.6963 or 72

1 (DOLBY)	13 GOING ON 30
2 (DOLBY)	EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING
3 (DOLBY)	THE TERMINAL
4 (DOLBY)	FENG SHUI

CINEMA 2000
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa, Laguna) tel (049) 837.0926

1	TAG-INIT
2	FENG SHUI
3 (DTS)	ANACONDAS

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	13 GOING ON 30
2 (DTS)	FENG SHUI
3 (DOLBY)	ANACONDAS
4	DODGEBALL

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	FENG SHUI
2 (DOLBY)	ANACONDAS
3 (DTS)	DODGEBALL
4	13 GOING ON 30

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	DEAD PEOPLE
2	FENG SHUI
3 (DOLBY)	PRINCESS DIARIE2

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729

1	PRINCESS DIARIES
2	FENG SHUI
3 (DOLBY)	ANACONDAS
4 (DTS)	STEPFORD WIVES

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 7953320

1	DODGEBALL
2	FENG SHUI
3 (DOLBY)	ANACONDAS

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	HOUSE OF THE DEAD
2	HIRAM
3	TAG-INIT
4 (DTS)	FENG SHUI

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	DEAD PEOPLE
2	TAG-INIT
3 (DTS)	DODGEBALL
4	13 GOING ON 30
5	FENG SHUI

Mega Center Mall
(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283

1	STEPFORD WIVES
2	FENG SHUI
3 (DTS)	PRINCESS DIARIES
4 (DOLBY)	STEPFORD WIVES

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	FENG SHUI
2	TOOLBOX MURDER
3	STEPFORD WIVES
4	ANACONDAS

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

1	FENG SHUI
2	BIGAY HILIG

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movietime SM CINEMA

NOW SHOWING

Central

SM MEGAMALL 6331901

1	EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING
2	MINDHUNTERS
3	FENG SHUI
4	13 GOING ON 30
5	THE NOTEBOOK
6	AUSTRALIAN FILMFEST
7	ANACONDAS
8	PRINCESS DIARIES 2
9	THE TERMINAL
10	EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING
11	GODSEND
12	DODGEBALL

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 9350749

1	THE NOTEBOOK
2	GODSEND
3	DODGEBALL
4	EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING
5	ANACONDAS
6	FENG SHUI
7	FENG SHUI
8	13 GOING ON 30
9	MINDHUNTERS
10	PRINCESS DIARIES 2
11	THE TERMINAL
12	TOOLBOX MURDERS

SM CITY MANILA 5239240

1	THE TERMINAL
2	FENG SHUI
3	THE NOTEBOOK
4	EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING
5	13 GOING ON 30
6	EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING
7	DODGEBALL
8	ANACONDAS
9	FENG SHUI
10	TOOLBOX MURDERS
11	MINDHUNTERS
12	PRINCESS DIARIES 2

SM CITY NORTH EDSA 9295452

1	ANACONDAS
2	13 GOING ON 30
3	FENG SHUI
4	EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING
5	TERMINAL
6	FENG SHUI
7	EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING
8	MINDHUNTERS

SM CITY STA. MESA 7149522 • 7161416

1	FENG SHUI
2	MINDHUNTERS
3	EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING
4	DODGEBALL
5	ANACONDAS
6	PRINCESS DIARIES 2
7	13 GOING ON 30
8	THE TERMINAL
9	FENG SHUI
10	THE NOTEBOOK

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN 2514302

1	ANACONDAS
2	MINDHUNTERS
3	FENG SHUI
4	EXORCIST:THE BEGINNING

North

SM CITY MARILAO (044) 933 2013 to 17

1	BANGKOK HAUNTED 2
2	DODGEBALL
3	ANACONDAS
4	FENG SHUI

SM CITY PAMPANGA 7128015

1	EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING
2	THE TERMINAL
3	ANACONDAS
4	PRINCESS DIARIES 2
5	GODSEND
6	FENG SHUI

SM CITY BAGUIO (074) 4464505

1	THE NOTEBOOK
2	FENG SHUI
3	THE TERMINAL
4	STEPFORD WIVES

South

SM CITY LAS PIÑAS 8065183

1	MINDHUNTERS
2	13 GOING ON 30
3	ANACONDAS
4	FENG SHUI
5	THE NOTEBOOK
6	TOOLBOX MURDERS
7	FENG SHUI
8	EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING
9	THE TERMINAL
10	DODEGBALL

SM CITY BICUTAN 7763055

1	MINDHUNTERS
2	FENG SHUI
3	13 GOING ON 30
4	EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING

SM SUPER CENTER SUCAT 8294975

1	MINDHUNTERS
2	EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING
3	FENG SHUI
4	13 GOING ON 30

SM CITY BACOOR (046)4173868

1	GODSEND
2	THE NOTEBOOK
3	MINDHUNTERS
4	EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING
5	ANACONDAS
6	FENG SHUI
7	13 GOING ON 30
8	THE TERMINAL

SM CITY DASMA (046) 4323201-04

1	DODGEBALL
2	FENG SHUI
3	BANGKOK HAUNTED 2
4	ANACONDAS

SM CITY LUCENA (042) 7108977-80

1	THE ALAMO
2	PRINCESS DIARIES 2
3	GODSEND
4	FENG SHUI

Visayas & Mindanao

SM CITY CEBU (032) 2313876

1	SPARTAN
2	THE TERMINAL
3	PRINCESS DIARIES 2
4	EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING
5	BANGKOK HAUNTED
6	LAWS OF ATTRACTION
7	FENG SHUI
8	ANACONDAS

SM CITY ILOILO (033) 3209422

1	THE ALAMO
2	RESERVED
3	PRINCESS DIARIES 2
4	GODSEND
5	PRINCESS DIARIES 2
6	FENG SHUI
7	RESERVED
8	ALIEN VS PREDATOR

SM CITY DAVAO (082) 2976998

1	FENG SHUI
2	CONNIE AND CARLA
3	THE NOTEBOOK
4	TOOLBOX MURDERS
5	ANACONDAS
6	PRINCESS DIARIES 2

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO (088) 8583884

1	FENG SHUI
2	A CINDERELLA STORY
3	PRINCESS DIARIES 2
4	ANACONDAS

—THE— PODIUM CINEMA

1
13 GOING ON 30
10:40 FS/12:10 MF/
2:20/4:30/6:40/
8:50/10:30 LFS/
11:00 LMF/12:40 END

2
EXORCIST:
THE BEGINNING
11:00 FS/11:20 MF/
1:40/4:00 LMF/
5:55 END

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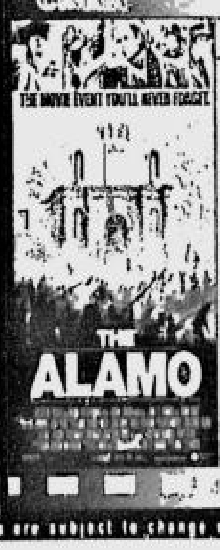
DURING FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS

SM CINEMA Critics' CHOICE USA



THE MOVIE EVENT YOU'LL NEVER FORGET
THE ALAMO

AN SM CINEMA EXCLUSIVE

THE ALAMO

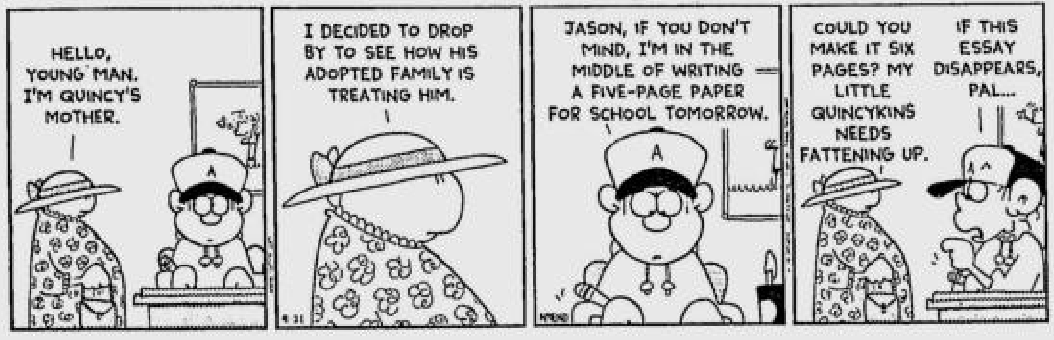
Dennis Quaid (The Day After Tomorrow) stars in this movie, set in the spring of 1836. Nearly 200 Texans – men of all races who believed in the future of Texas – held the fort for 13 days under siege by General Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna, ruler of Mexico and commander of its forces. Led by three men – the young brash Col. William Travis; the violent, passionate James Bowie; and the larger than life living legend David Crockett – the Texans and their deeds at the Alamo would pass into history as General Sam Houston's rallying cry for Texas independence and into legend for their symbolic significance.

Sept 19-21
SM City Lucena
SM City Iloilo
MTRCB RATING PG13
For Screening schedules, Dial 633 9990

Movies are subject to change without prior notice

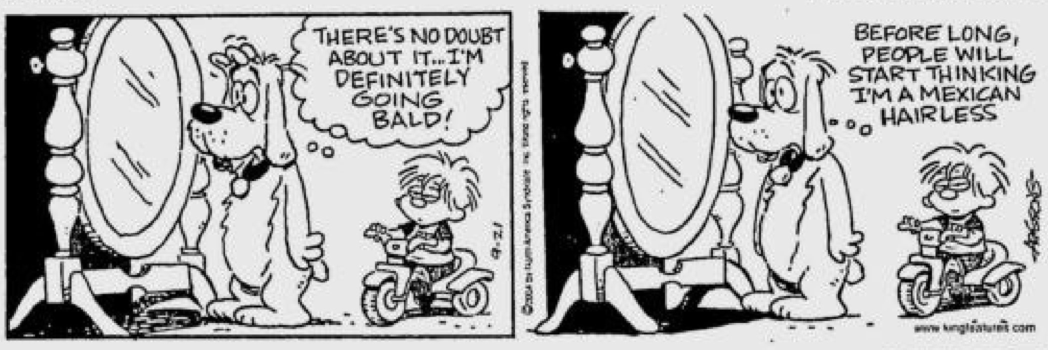
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


HELLO, YOUNG MAN. I'M QUINCY'S MOTHER.
I DECIDED TO DROP BY TO SEE HOW HIS ADOPTED FAMILY IS TREATING HIM.
JASON, IF YOU DON'T MIND, I'M IN THE MIDDLE OF WRITING A FIVE-PAGE PAPER FOR SCHOOL TOMORROW.
COULD YOU MAKE IT SIX PAGES? MY LITTLE QUINCYKINS NEEDS FATTENING UP.
IF THIS ESSAY DISAPPEARS, PAL...
9-21
AMEND

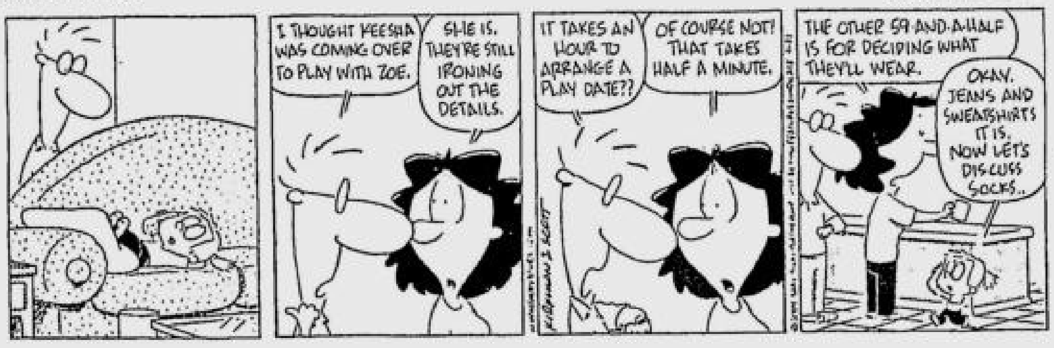
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


THERE'S NO DOUBT ABOUT IT...I'M DEFINITELY GOING BALD!
BEFORE LONG, PEOPLE WILL START THINKING I'M A MEXICAN HAIRLESS
9-21
ARMSTRONG
www.kingfeatures.com

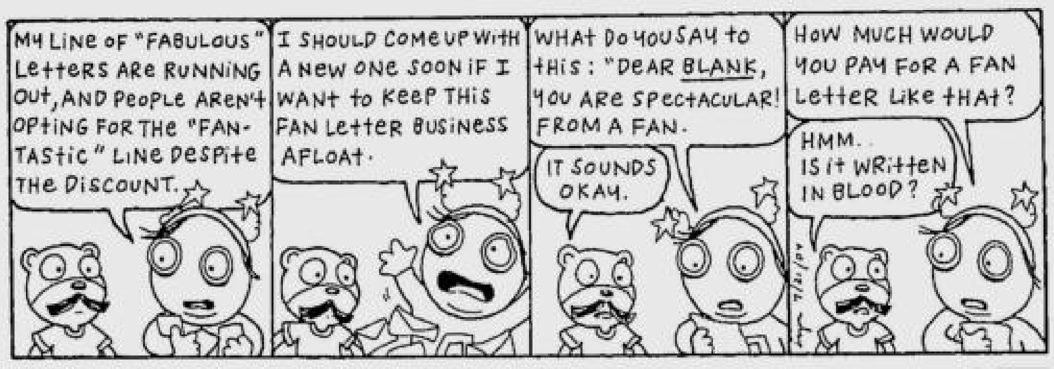
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


I THOUGHT KEESHA WAS COMING OVER TO PLAY WITH ZOE.
SHE IS. THEY'RE STILL IRONING OUT THE DETAILS.
IT TAKES AN HOUR TO ARRANGE A PLAY DATE??
OF COURSE NOT! THAT TAKES HALF A MINUTE.
THE OTHER 59-AND-A-HALF IS FOR DECIDING WHAT THEY'LL WEAR.
OKAY. JEANS AND SWEATSHIRTS IT IS. NOW LET'S DISCUSS SOCKS..
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


MY LINE OF "FABULOUS" LETTERS ARE RUNNING OUT, AND PEOPLE AREN'T OPTING FOR THE "FANTASTIC" LINE DESPITE THE DISCOUNT.
I SHOULD COME UP WITH A NEW ONE SOON IF I WANT TO KEEP THIS FAN LETTER BUSINESS AFLOAT.
WHAT DO YOU SAY TO THIS: "DEAR BLANK, YOU ARE SPECTACULAR! FROM A FAN.
IT SOUNDS OKAY.
HOW MUCH WOULD YOU PAY FOR A FAN LETTER LIKE THAT?
HMM. IS IT WRITTEN IN BLOOD?

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You have excellent taste. Furthermore, you're concerned with environmental and social conditions around you. You're modern, up-to-date and in step with the times. You're intrigued by mystery and unusual situations. You respond strongly to beauty in any form. You have a fabulous imagination. Wrap up important things this year. It's time to move on.
Birthdate of: Bill Murray, actor; Faith Hill, singer; Stephen King, writer.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): You have tremendous energy to either play hard or work hard today. If you apply this energy to your job, you can be very successful at whatever you do.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Your desire for fun, romance and pleasure is over the top today. Since you love your creature comforts, don't hold back. (But make sure others enjoy themselves as well.)

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): This is a wonderful day for real estate deals and any kind of family business. Domestic transactions and discussions with family members are profitable and upbeat. Enjoy your day!

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You feel positive, enthusiastic and extremely optimistic today. Your doubts are not only gone, they've been replaced with a strong sense of self-confidence.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You can either spend a lot of money today or make a lot of money. Perhaps some of you can do both! (Just remember: The bills will arrive one day.)

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): You feel good today, both physically and psychologically. You want to do as much as you can. In fact, you want it all! Look for any opportunity to broaden your life and enlarge your experience of living.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): You might feel strongly spiritual today, or perhaps just pleasantly pleased with your own company. You value your own privacy.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): This is a great day to do things with friends and groups. People are friendly and warm. In turn, you're in the mood to meet and greet others.

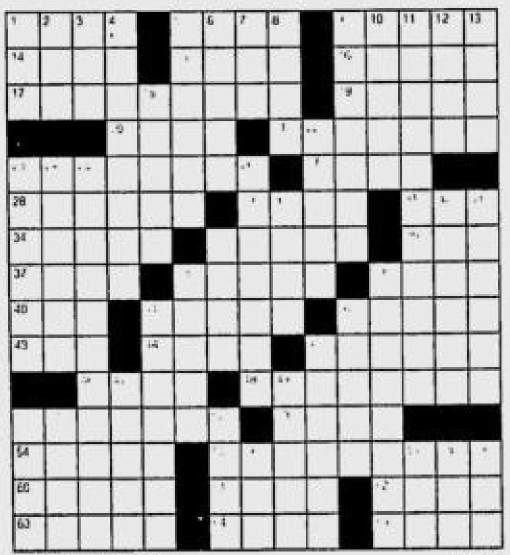
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Someone might be quite envious of you today. They see you reaping your rewards in some fashion. Share your good fortune with others if you can.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Your desire to learn more about life and other countries and cultures is very strong today. You want to embrace knowledge. You want a better understanding of the universe.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): You have had a lovely run of good luck in terms of receiving gifts, inheritances and advantages through others. Fear not: This good luck continues!

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Partnerships and close friendships are heartwarming today. You feel enriched by knowing someone. In fact, this person is truly a blessing in your life. (Consider yourself lucky.)

DAILY CROSSWORD



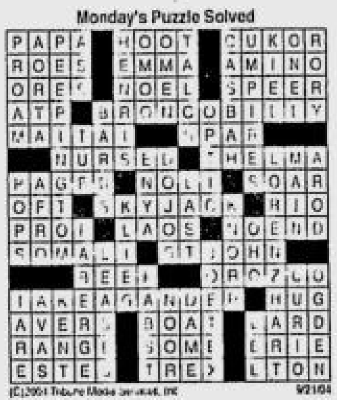
By John Underwood
New York, NY

9/21/04

ACROSS
1 Marsh grass
5 Of India: pref.
9 Majestic
14 Montreal player
15 Verne's captain
16 Slur over
17 Adolescent stubble
19 Baffin Island's neighbor
20 Level
21 Heartfelt
23 Lachrymal secretion
27 Connection line
28 Hardy and North, casually
29 Actor Omar
31 WNW's opposite
34 Brick-lined ovens
35 Mirths
36 Ate starter?
37 Novel ending?
38 Wilson of the Beach Boys
39 Skier's lift
40 Bk. after Ezra
41 Spot for a Rolex
42 Island off Venezuela
43 Retirement grp.
44 McKellen and McEwan
45 Shameless
46 Zesty bite
48 Made sexier
50 Award by law
53 Egyptian sun god
54 Prods
55 Gin with an egg drink
60 WWII landing site
61 Midday
62 Luau instruments
63 Tonsorial tool
64 Walkman maker
65 Spartan queen

DOWN
1 Agt.
2 Program file extension
3 Clean air grp.
4 Statement of policy
5 Draws conclusions
6 Toxin or surgeon starter
7 Letters for a combat-free area
8 Seepage
9 Put right
10 "Maria __"
11 Call my number
12 Ruckuses
13 Fasting period
18 Pelts
22 Rockies resort
23 Turnstile fares
24 Privileged classes
25 Bob Fosse film
26 Loose cloak
30 Bog substance
32 Navy builder
33 Golfer's task
35 Toothy smile
38 Fort __, NC
39 More than a carload
41 Ruling house of Great Britain
42 Soviet collective
45 Plant science
47 Sound track
49 Synthetic fiber
50 Thickening agent
51 Portuguese lady
52 Sea eagles
56 Tic-tac-toe victory
57 DDE
58 Final letter for London
59 Half a Gabor?

Monday's Puzzle Solved



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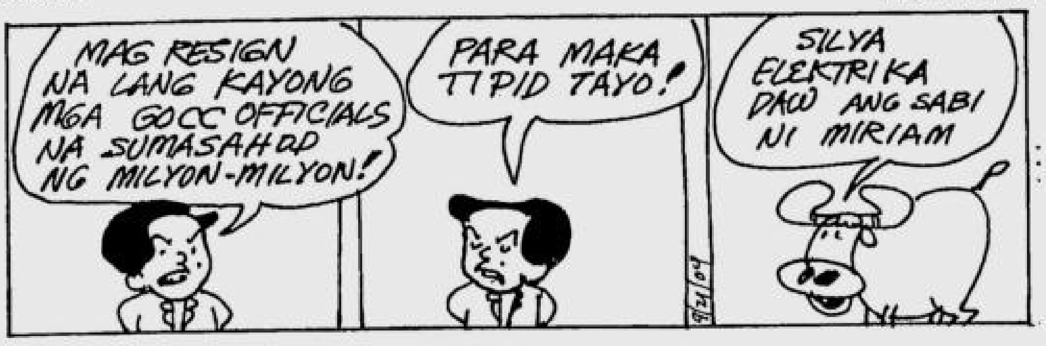
9/21/04

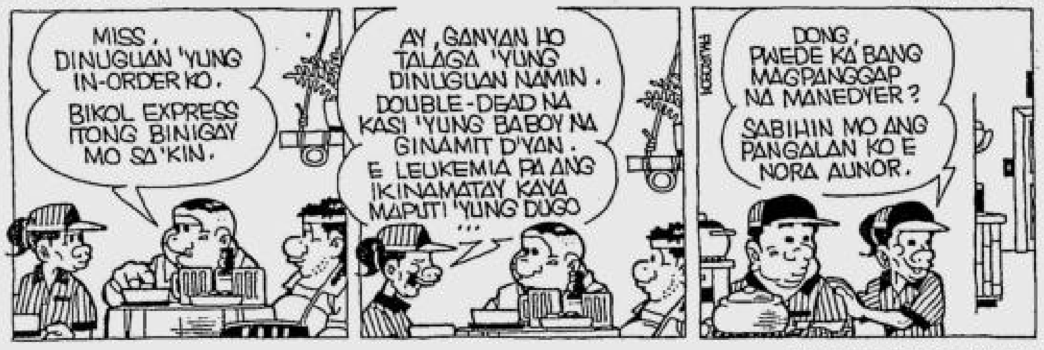
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


MAG RESIGN NA LANG KAYONG MGA GOCC OFFICIALS NA SUMASAHOD NG MILYON-MILYON!
PARA MAKA TIPID TAYO!
SILYA ELEKTRIKA DAW ANG SABI NI MIRIAM
9/21/04

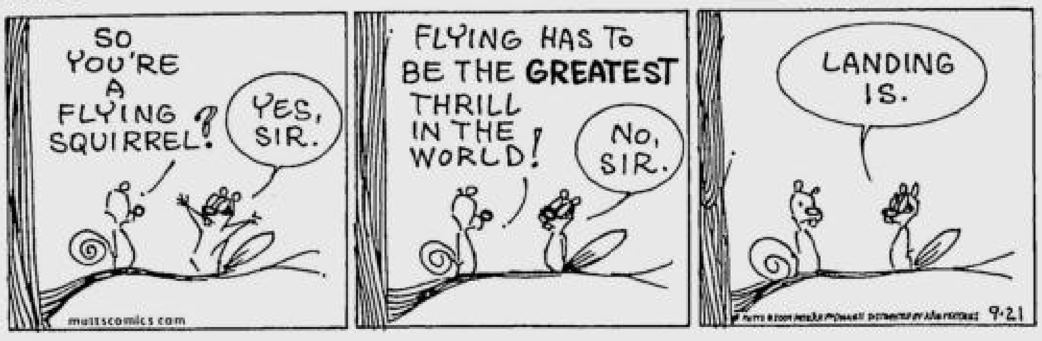
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


MISS, DINUGUAN 'YUNG IN-ORDER KO. BIKOL EXPRESS ITONG BINIGAY MO SA'KIN.
AY, GANYAN HO TALAGA 'YUNG DINUGUAN NAMIN. DOUBLE-DEAD NA KASI 'YUNG BABOY NA GINAMIT D'YAN. E LEUKEMIA PA ANG IKINAMATAY KAYA MAPUTI 'YUNG DUGO
...
DONG, PWEDE KA BANG MAGPANGGAP NA MANEDYER? SABIHIN MO ANG PANGALAN KO E NORA AUNOR.

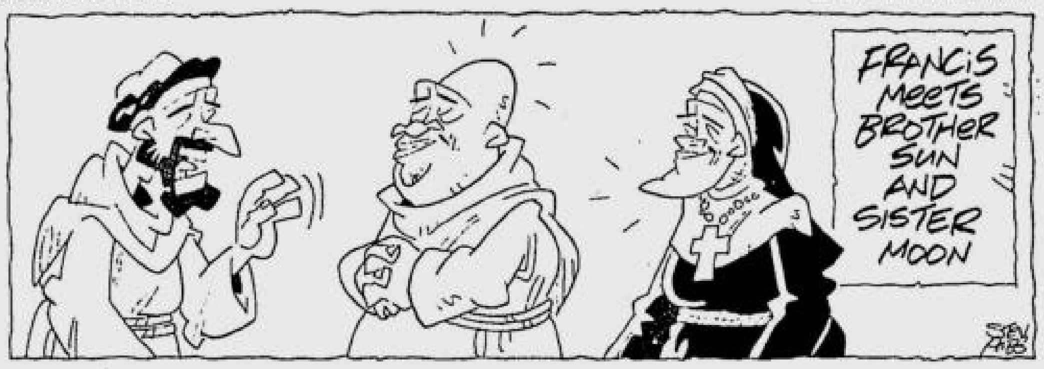
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


SO YOU'RE A FLYING SQUIRREL?
YES, SIR.
FLYING HAS TO BE THE GREATEST THRILL IN THE WORLD!
NO, SIR.
LANDING IS.
muttscomics.com
9-21

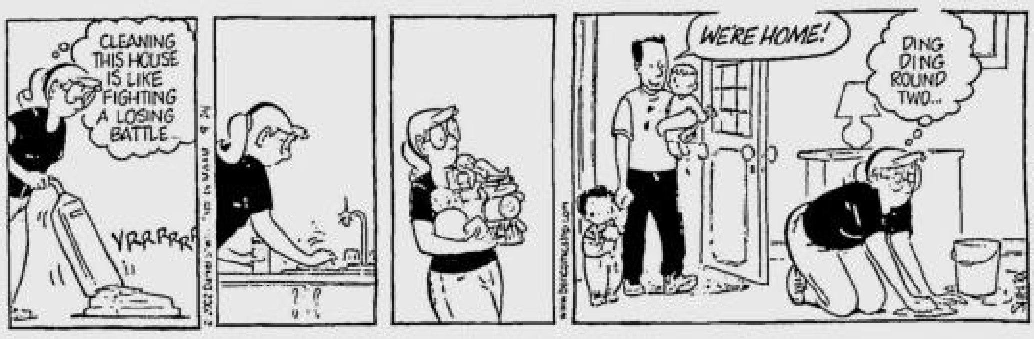
DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


FRANCIS MEETS BROTHER SUN AND SISTER MOON
STEV PAB

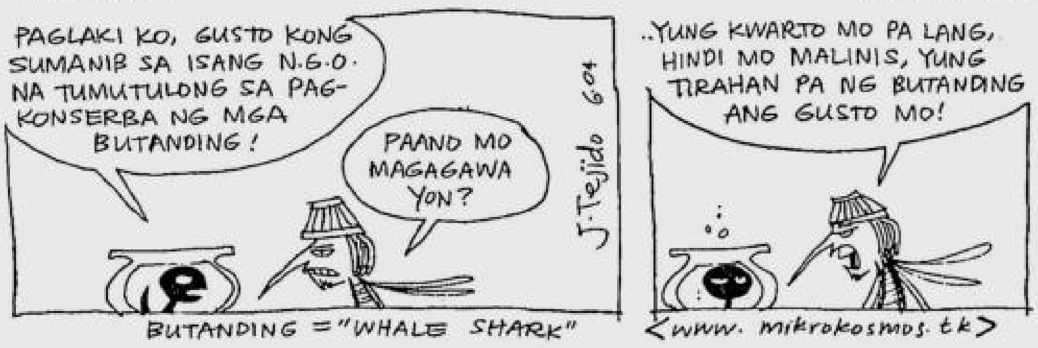
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


CLEANING THIS HOUSE IS LIKE FIGHTING A LOSING BATTLE...
VRRRRRR
WE'RE HOME!
DING DING ROUND TWO...

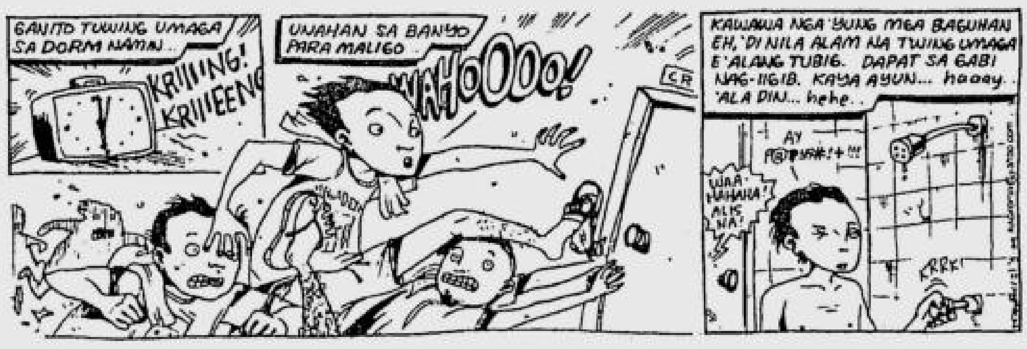
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


PAGLAKI KO, GUSTO KONG SUMANIB SA ISANG N.G.O. NA TUMUTULONG SA PAGKONSERBA NG MGA BUTANDING!
PAANO MO MAGAGAWA YON?
..YUNG KWARTO MO PA LANG, HINDI MO MALINIS, YUNG TIRAHAN PA NG BUTANDING ANG GUSTO MO!
J. Tejido 6.04
BUTANDING = "WHALE SHARK"
<www. mikrokosmos. tk>

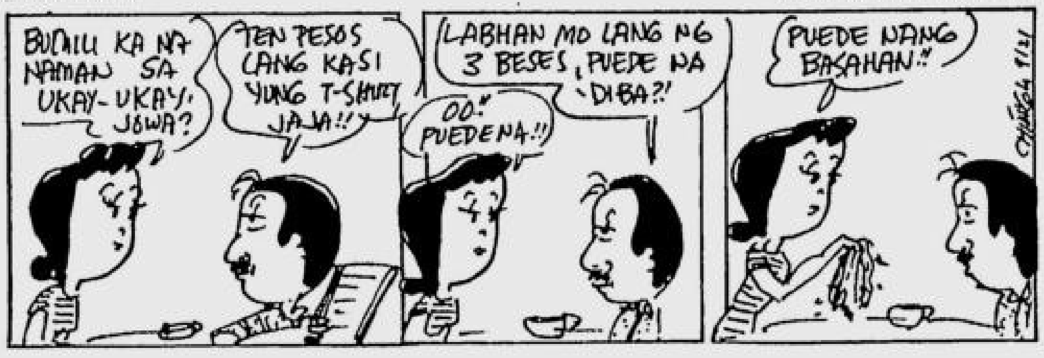
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


GANITO TUWING UMAGA SA DORM NAMIN...
KRIIIING! KRIIIEENG
UNAHAN SA BANYO PARA MALIGO...
WAHOOOOO!
CR
KAWAWA NGA 'YUNG MGA BAGUHAN EH, 'DI NILA ALAM NA TUWING UMAGA E 'ALANG TUBIG. DAPAT SA GABI NAG-IIGIB. KAYA AYUN... haaay. 'ALA DIN... hehe..
AY P@#$%&!+!!!
WAA-HAHAHA! ALIS NA!
KRRK!

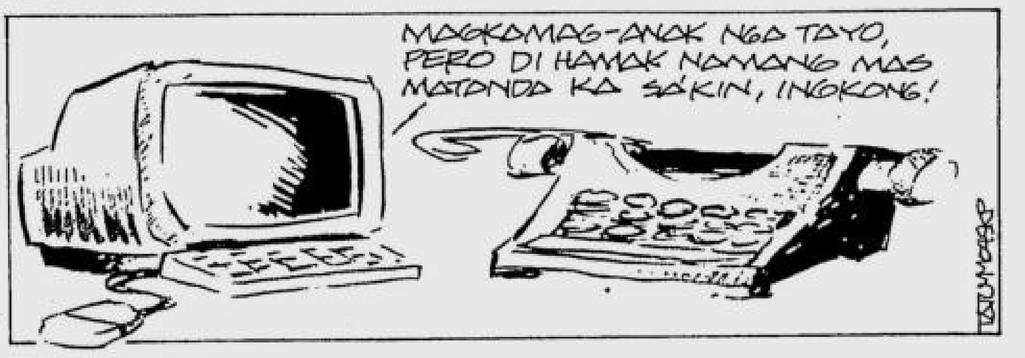
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


BUMILI KA NA NAMAN SA UKAY-UKAY, JOWA?
TEN PESOS LANG KASI YUNG T-SHIRT JAJA!!
LABHAN MO LANG NG 3 BESES, PUEDE NA 'DIBA?!
OO! PUEDE NA!!
PUEDE NANG BASAHAN!
CHIONGLO 9/21

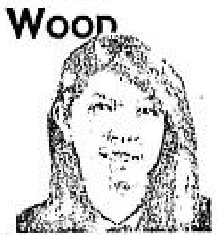
TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


MAGKAMAG-ANAK NGA TAYO, PERO DI HAMAK NAMANG MAS MATANDA KA SA'KIN, INGKONG!

$100,000 talent fee for Jasmine Trias

DOLLY WOOD



Dolly Ann Carvajal

FIL-AMERICAN **Jasmine Trias** may not have bagged the grand prize on "American Idol" but her participation in the reality search has opened so many doors for her.

JASMINE Trias

Jasmine is now a most sought after endorser of an assortment of products, such as Her Bench and Smart. Soon, her ads for McDonald's will be out, too. Heard that McDo paid her $100,000. Talk about supersizing her fee the Mcdo way. Let's hope the Fil-Am charmer won't spread herself too thin by endorsing too many products as she continues to spread her wings.

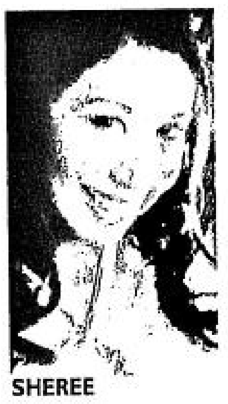
Rica as Darna

COULD it be true that **Rica Peralejo** secretly auditioned for GMA-7's "Darna?"

She has the body for it, so why not? If and when she lands the part, does it mean that Rica will move from her home studio, swallow the magic stone of Darna and shout "Kapuso!"?

Sheree as singer

AFTER **Sheree's** successful concert, she has decided to turn her back on doing sexy movies and just concentrate on her fledgling singing career.



SHEREE

The ex-Viva Hot Babe's sultry looks and husky voice remind me of torch singers in dim cafés. Sheree is slated to soon record an album, including original Keith Martin compositions.

After Keith's phenomenal hit "Because of You," it's about time he came up with another one. Keith has stayed on in Manila after his signature song made him an instant superstar with Pinoys. Now he should prove that he's not just a one-hit wonder.

Drew's direction

DID you know that "Crush Ng Bayan" **Drew Arellano** used to work as an account executive in an ad agency?

DREW Arellano

Drew knew the ropes but he was too good-looking to work behind the scenes, so he was soon starring in TV ads. Now Drew is fast becoming a household name. He is such a natural in "Wazzup? Wazzup?" For a talent like Drew, there's no way to go but up.

Angelu's single life

ANGELU de Leon is enjoying single life to the max.

"I became a mom at such an early age and it's only now that I'm really relishing what it's like to be a single girl, so to speak," said Angelu. "I'm happily unattached."

She harbors no bitterness towards the fathers of her two love children. "I don't oblige them to give support. I can't put a price tag on my kids. Their fathers know that they are welcome to visit and borrow our daughters anytime, but I'm not begging them to. I'm working hard for the love of my kids."

ANGELU de Leon

In jest, she added, "But I'm not sure if my two girls know that their dads are still alive because my kids they don't get to touch them."

Single moms should take the cue from Angelu and remember not to lose their sense of humor even when nothing else seems to make sense in the crazy world of single parenting.

Phillip's exes

VIVIALYN **Dungca** is rallying behind **Cristina Decena** in the estafa case the latter is filing against their common ex, **Phillip Salvador**.

Are they ganging up on Ipe? Hell hath no fury like a woman scorned. Make that double in Ipe's case. Maybe he should just have a heart to heart talk with both of them. After all, he once lived in the hearts of Vivialyn and Cristina so he knows the way to get to them somehow.

The question is, at this point, does he have the heart to pacify his ex-lovers?

CRISTINA Decena, one of Phillip's exes

Alessandra's luck

ALESSANDRA de Rossi walked out during the audition for "Darna."

The feisty actress revealed, "I thought it was just for costume fitting but I found out there had to be a try-out, so I left. Not for anything else, but I believe that if a role is meant for me, it will be offered to me. I need not apply for it. Like my role in an international movie I'm going to shoot in Singapore, 'The Maid.' The role is really for me. It's also because of what you call luck that I got included in the cast."

Alex is not one who has to try too hard. All she has to do is be is herself. Who else is better qualified?

For feedback, e-mail friends_elpueblo@yahoo.com or dollyanne@truefaithband.com

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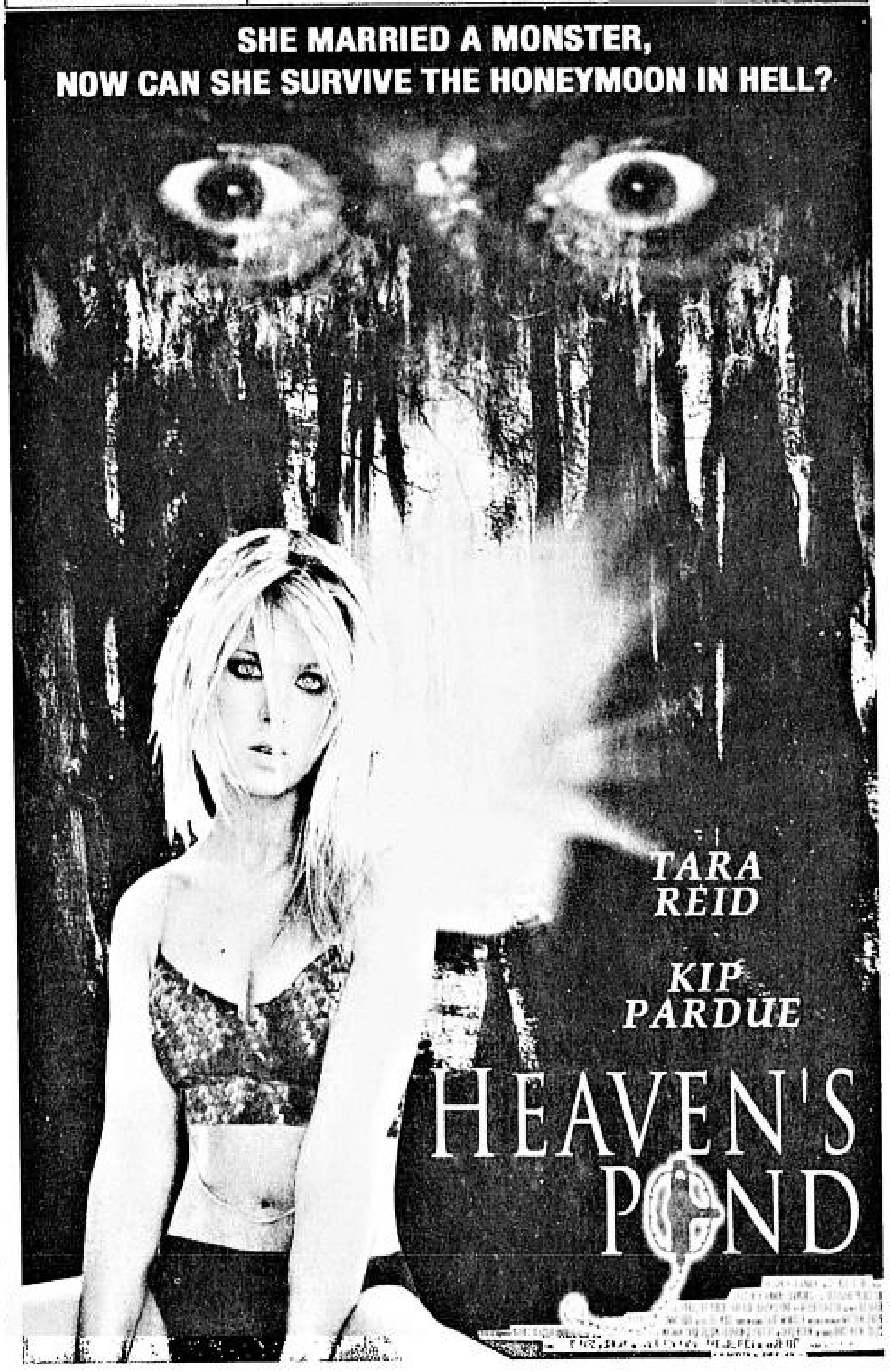

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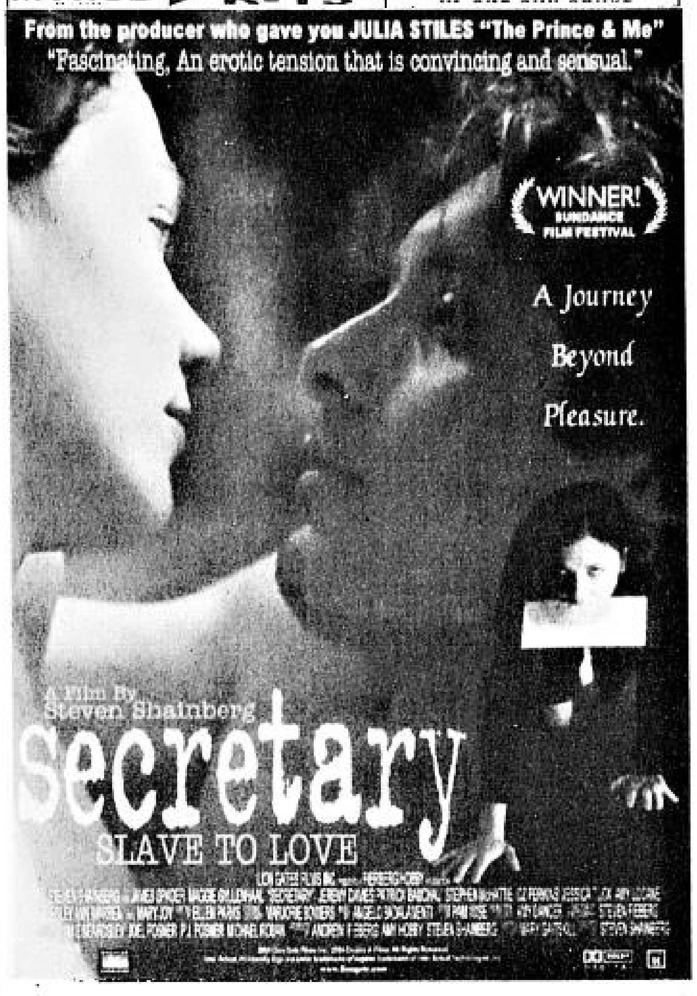

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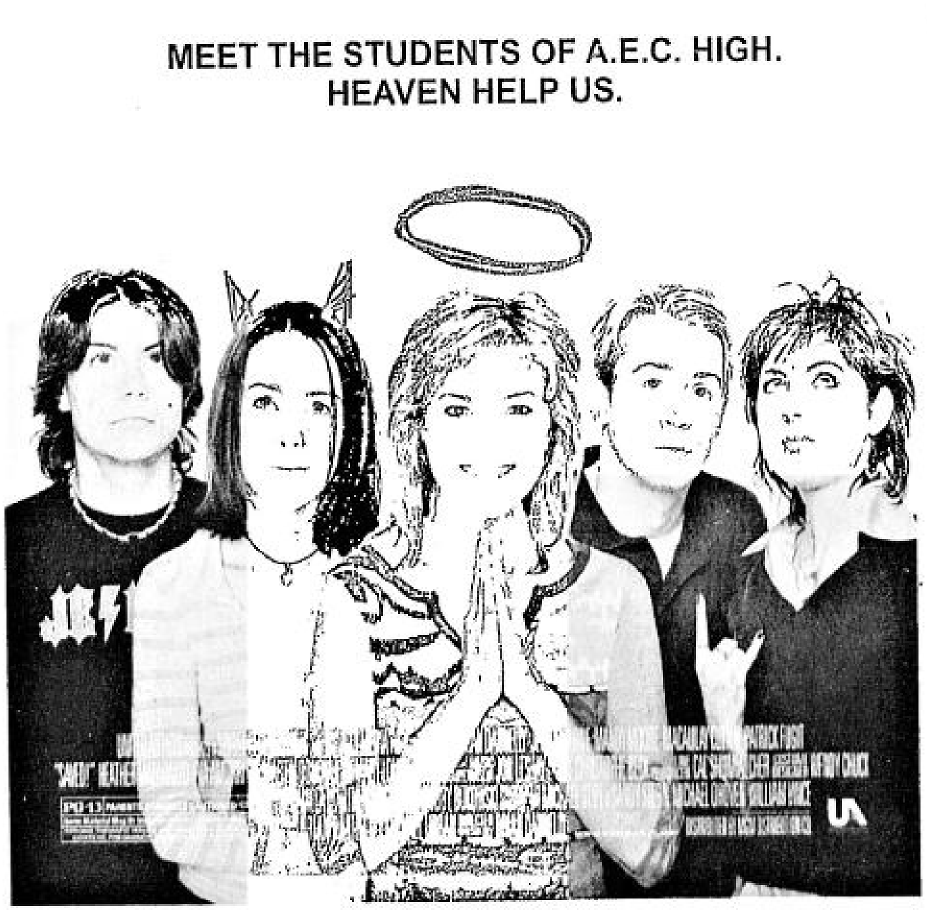

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4 EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING 11:40, 2:15, 4.50, 7:25, 10:00
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6 MINDHUNTERS 10:20, 12:40, 3.00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
7 BOURNE SUPREMACY Sneak Preview
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3 13 GOING ON 30 1:30, 3:50, 6:10, 8:20, 10:00
4 BOURNE SUPREMACY Sneak Preview
5 DODGEBALL 11:00, 1:05, 3:15, 5:25, 7:35, 9:45
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3 THE TERMINAL 10:45, 1:15, 3.45, 6.15, 9 00
4 ANACONDAS 10:05, 12:05, 2:15, 4:25, 6:35, 9.00
5 BOURNE SUPREMACY Sneak Preview
6 13 GOING ON 30 10:25, 12:50, 3:15, 5:40, 8 05, 10:30
7 EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING 11:20, 1:40, 4 00, 6:20, 8 40, 10:30
8 FENG SHUI 10 10, 12.40, 3:10, 5:40, 8.10, 10:30

NOVALICHES 935-3229 / 31
1 EXORCIST:THE BEGINNING
2 MINDHUNTERS
3 FENG SHUI
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5 THE TERMINAL
6 13 GOING ON 30
7 EXORCIST:THE BEGINNING
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1 ANACONDAS
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3 GODSEND
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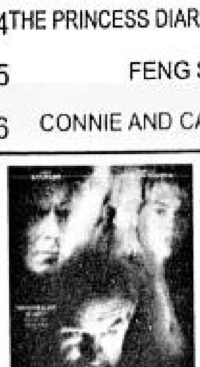

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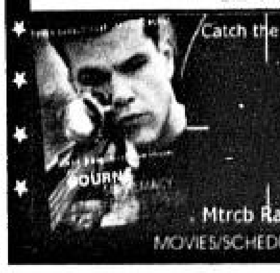

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2 THE TERMINAL/ THE BOURNE SUPREMACY	2 EXORCIST THE BEGINNING	2 THE TERMINAL	6 FENG SHUI	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 2 THE NOTEBOOK / THE BOURNE SUPREMACY 7 10, 9 20, 11 30	2 THE TERMINAL
3 FENG SHUI	3 THE TERMINAL/ THE BOURNE SUPREMACY	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 3 EXORCIST 12 50, 3 15, 5 40, 8 05, 10 30	7 THE NOTEBOOK	GUARANTEED SEATS 3 13 GOING ON 30 1 30, 4 00, 6 30, 9 00, 11 30	3 FENG SHUI
4 MINDHUNTERS	4 FENG SHUI	4 MINDHUNTERS		GUARANTEED SEATS 4 THE TERMINAL 1 30, 4 00, 6 30, 9 00, 11 30	4 SPARTAN
5 13 GOING ON 30				GUARANTEED SEATS 5 FENG SHUI 12 40, 2 00, 4 20, 6 40, 9 00, 11 20	5 PRINCESS DIARIES 2

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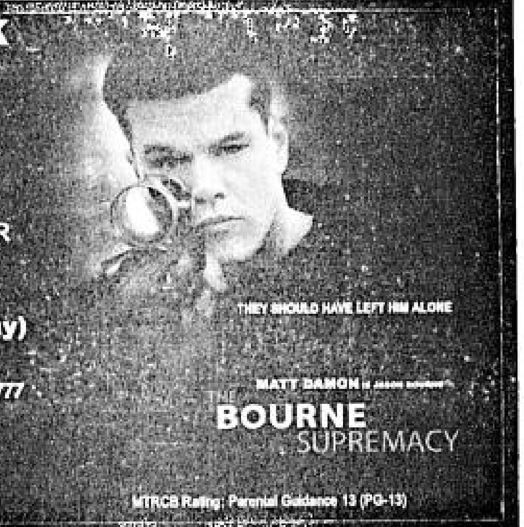
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'Sopranos' rub out . . .

From page A24

Crane on TV for 20 years, his co-star David Hyde Pierce won the statuette for best supporting actor in a comedy.

The awards provided fresh evidence that the major broadcast networks, even as they open their new season this week, have ceded creative ground to cable networks.

HBO, which has grown from a movie channel to a powerhouse of original programming, finished the night with 32 Emmys, the most of any network. Its closest rival was Fox, with 10 prizes.

NBC was third with eight awards, followed by ABC and the public television network PBS with seven each.

Loud cheers

"Sex and the City's" Parker, defeated in her last five acting nominations for the show, called her victory "worth the wait." One of the loudest cheers of the evening was reserved for Parker, for whom this was the last chance at a best comedy actress award, with "Sex and the City" having wrapped up its sixth and final season.

Allison Janney won her second Emmy for best actress in a drama series for her role as White House press secretary C.J. Cregg on "The West Wing."

Playwright Kushner thanked his "husband" Mark saying, "One of these days we can get a legal marriage license and you can make an honest homosexual out of me."

On stage, "Sopranos" star James Gandolfini was cut off when he was trying to acknowledge an infantry unit in Iraq that had named their Bradley Fighting Vehicle after Tony Soprano's boat. Show director Louis Horvitz said cutting him off was not intentional.

Tribute

"The Daily Show with Jon Stewart," which has spent election year skewering the candidates for tiny Comedy Central, won an award for best variety series for the second year in a row. His writing staff also won an Emmy.

Grammer paid tribute to the late John Ritter, who was nominated posthumously for "Eight Simple Rules."

"He was a terrific guy and his death was a shock to all of us," Grammer said. "And he'll be missed, not only just for his kindness but also for his work."

Cynthia Nixon won best supporting actress for "Sex and the City."

Donald Trump and "Survivor" creator Mark Burnett found themselves looking on from the audience as a less-popular show, CBS' "The Amazing Race," won best reality series for the second year in a row.

There was no farewell prize for the most popular sitcom of recent years, "Friends," which failed to win in any of the major categories.

AFP, AP, REUTERS

Effects of excessive sexual content in TV shows

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

FOR a long time now, concerned viewers have been saying that TV has a strong effect, for good or bad, on people's attitudes and actuations. With similar unction, however, TV people have been insisting that no such clear and direct link has been definitively and scientifically established.

Recently, however, the "Today" show on NBC came out with a report that could more clearly affirm that link. The program focused on a year-long study into young viewers' attitudes about sex, as influenced by the sex-oriented programs they viewed.

Among American 12-year-olds, the study established that four percent of them had had sex. Of this total group, viewers who watched little sex-oriented TV were three percent sexually active, while those who viewed a lot of sex were doubly active (six percent).

Among 16-year-old viewers, sexual activity went up at pretty much the same ratio, while 17- to 19-year-olds exposed to sex content on TV were more than twice as likely (at 20 percent) to try sexual intercourse for themselves.

The psychologists who conducted the study detailed the shows' sexual content as jokes, innuendo, necking, petting and simulated bed scenes, with correspondingly sensual dialogue.

Young viewers interviewed about the study's findings pretty much concurred, saying they felt they were being "brainwashed" by so much sexual content and insinuating on the TV screen.

They also noted that not only the "story" program formats (dramas, sitcoms) were to blame. Sex, they pointed out, was also substantially evident on talk shows, documentaries and music video programs.

With so much sexual interest and fascination, teen viewers say they're practically seduced into trying it out for themselves.

Psychologists add that the negative effect of this potentially prurient interest is exacerbated by the TV shows' weak depiction of the negative consequences of youthful sexual activity—sexually transmitted disease, AIDS, unwanted pregnancy, loss of interest in studies and work, etc.

> TV people have to do their work more responsibly and intelligently

Everything is painted in pleasurable, desirable hues, so impressionable young viewers enthusiastically engage in sexual activity without being made aware of its "down" side—until it's too late.

What's the solution to this clearly unacceptable situation? TV people have to do their work more responsibly and intelligently. They need to project not just the pleasure but also the consequences of sex.

In school, sex education should include discussions on sex in the entertainment that teenagers are exposed to, and how they should handle and relate to it.

Finally, the need for parents to supervise their children's viewing preferences can't be overemphasized.

They should try their best to make time to watch TV with their kids, and to discuss the positive and negative aspects of the shows they view.

It's important for young people to benefit from the advice of their parents on the shows they watch. Left to their own devices, they may be too vulnerable and impressionable to resist the sensuous blandishments of the clever and persuasive exponents of sex on the TV screen.

Feeback

FROM **Jonathan Araullo**: "On your 'TV people talk back'" column: The TV people reacted too defensively. Nobody is laying all the blame for the ills of society on the television industry. Certainly, there are other causes. But TV. does share the blame for the ills.

"There is no doubt that TV is a major influence in our everyday lives. Whether we are aware of it or not, TV influences us in the way we see issues, how we look at other people, etc. and because of this hold over us, we must scrutinize it, and if it is issued in a wrongful manner, it should be addressed and corrected.

"One thing I find most interesting with the TV people's reaction is that they see themselves mainly as entertainers rather than educators also. If this is the way the TV industry sees itself, then it is no wonder why it is the way it is now. I am hoping that this is not the case.

"TV people and viewers need to be reminded of some points: First, all electronic media (radio and TV) operate on certain frequencies which are limited in number. Due to this limitation, frequencies are deemed public property. They are therefore owned by the people, who in turn are represented by government.

"Because it is not possible for everyone to broadcast, it is up to the government to assign those frequencies to parties that can use them wisely and efficiently. And at present, government gives the frequencies to these privileged few free of change.

"Of course, they pay taxes and some fees, but no payment is made for the use of the frequency.

"These companies that operate on their assigned frequencies are given the privilege (not the right) to broadcast where no one else could. In exchange for this privilege, electronic media is expected to use these frequencies responsibly and in line with nation-building, as stated in the Philippine Constitution (Article 2, Sec. 28)." *(To be concluded).*

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3 THE TERMINAL 11:00, 1:45, 4:30 PG-13 / BOURNE SUPREMACY 7:10, 10:00 PG-13
4 13 GOING ON 30 11:20, 1:40, 4:00 6:20, 8:40, 11:10 PG-13

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5 dts ANACONDAS 11:35 am 1:55 pm 4:15 pm 6:35 pm 8:55 pm
6 Dolby THE TERMINAL 12:35 pm 3:20 pm 6:05 pm 8:50 pm
7 Dolby MIND HUNTERS 12:45 pm 3:15 pm 5:45 pm 8:15 pm
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FENG SHUI PG13 12:50,3:10,5:30,7:50,10:10	THE NOTEBOOK PG13 12:40,3:20,6:00,8:40	THE TERMINAL GP 12:00, 2:35, 5:10, 7:45, 10:20

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ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY, LEGEND OF CROCODILE
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	BIKTIMA / NAIIBANG HAYOP
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	FENG SHUI
B	CLOSED
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA 1, 2, 3 & 4	THE NOTEBOOK THE TERMINAL PRINCESS DIARIES 2 DODGEBALL
PREMIERE THEATRE	ANACONDAS
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	DODGEBALL
CINEMA-2	TAG-INIT
CINEMA-3	FENG SHUI
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	EXORCIST THE BEGINNING
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	ALIEN VS PREDATOR
CINEMA-6	THE NOTEBOOK
CINEMA-7	GODSEND
CINEMA-8	NENA INOSENTE (RE-ISSUE)
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	EXORCIST THE BEGINNING
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	ANACONDAS
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	13 GOING ON 30
CINEMA-12	MINDHUNTERS
CINEMA-14	THE TERMINAL
CINEMA-15	FENG SHUI
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
(LAS PIÑAS)	ALIEN VS PREDATOR
CINEMA-1	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
CINEMA-2	GARFIELD
CINEMA 4	[illegible]
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
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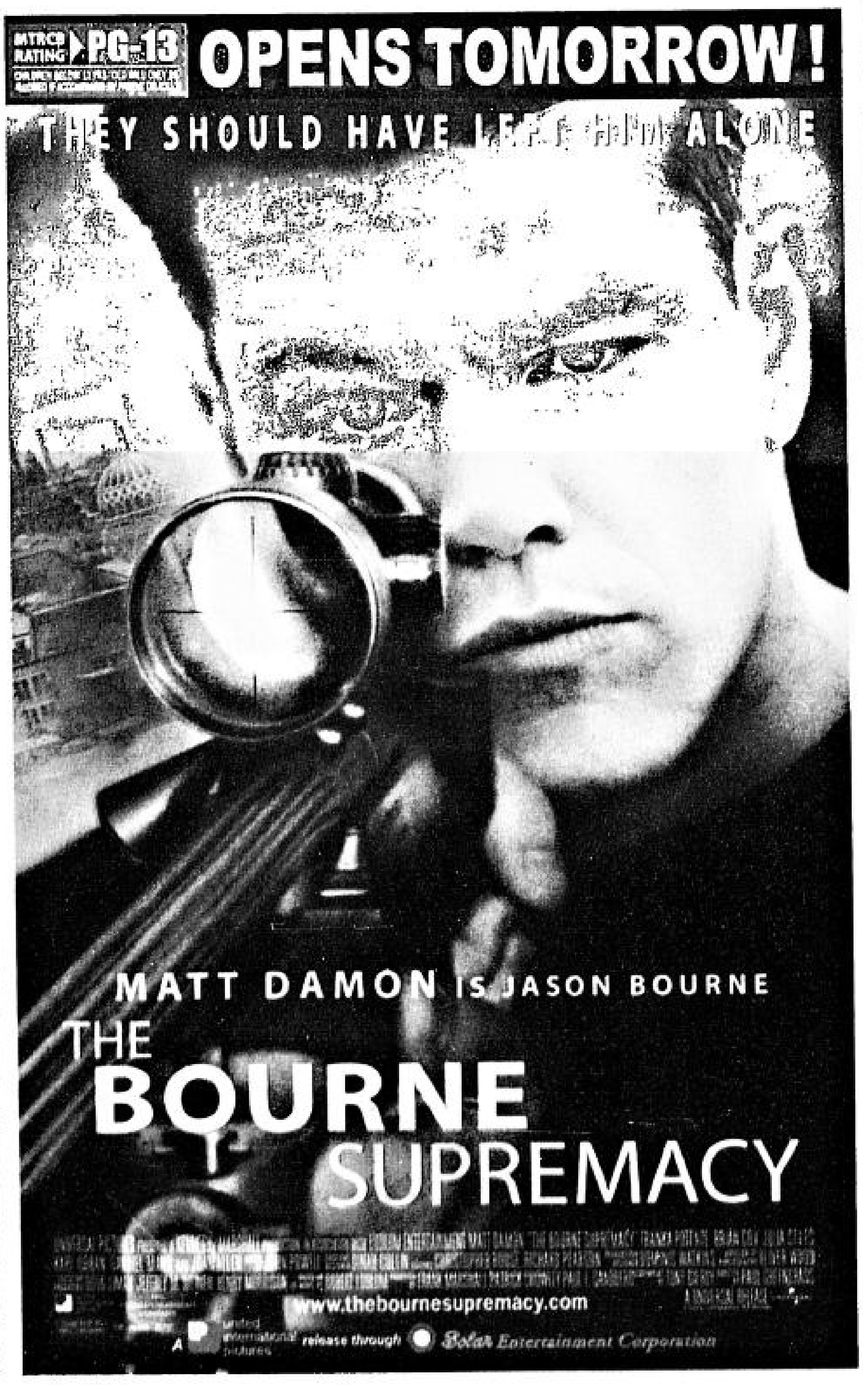

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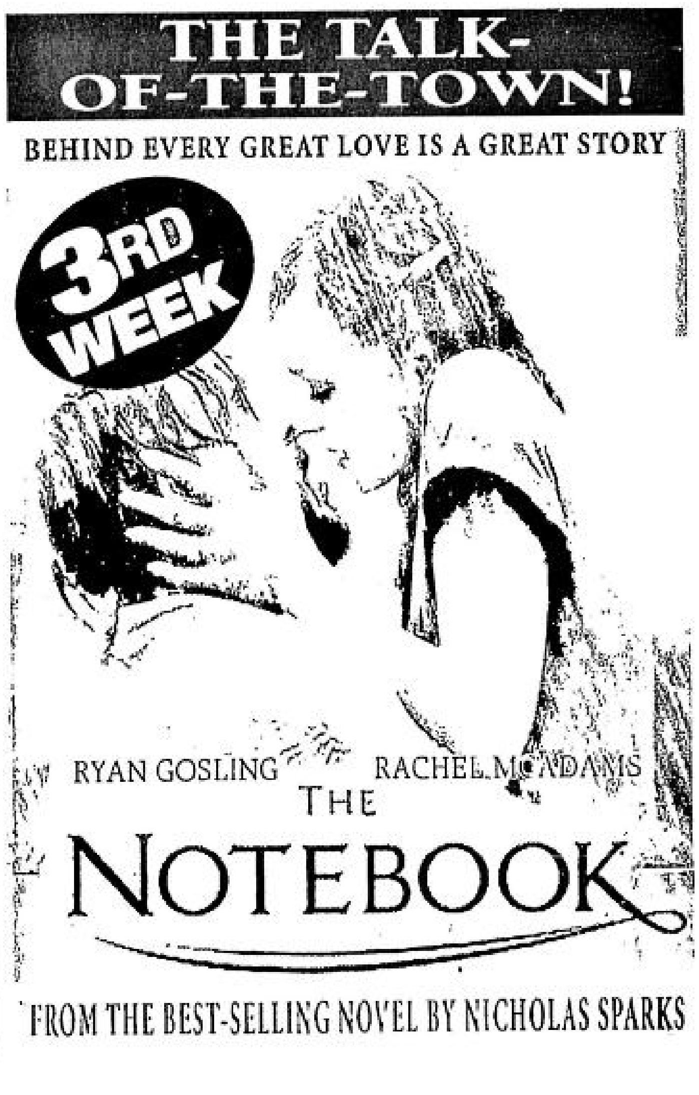

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HBO, WITH 32 AWARDS, IS KING

'Sopranos' rub out competition at Emmys

STREEP. "Tonight I don't feel overrated."

LOS ANGELES—The dark side of American life dominated the 56th annual Emmy Awards as the mobsters of "The Sopranos" and the AIDS victims of "Angels in America" walked off with top awards, making cable network HBO king.

The evening had a sentimental side as the stars of two recently departed prime-time favorites—Sarah Jessica Parker of HBO's "Sex and the City" and Kelsey Grammer of NBC's "Frasier"—won the best acting awards in their categories.

Sunday evening also had its surprises with the award for best comedy going to "Arrested Development," a critical darling on the Fox network that is struggling to survive poor ratings. And the award for best actor in a drama went to film star James Spader for his portrayal of an unethical lawyer on the final season of ABC's "The Practice."

After four previous losing bids for top honors, "The Sopranos" finally claimed the elusive crown as US TV's best drama, rubbing out competition from defending champion, NBC political drama "The West Wing."

"Angels in America," an adaptation of Tony Kushner's Pulitzer Prize-winning play about the AIDS epidemic, won 11 Emmys, the most of any show this year, and eclipsed the record of nine Emmys set by ABC's slavery drama, "Roots," in 1977.

"Angels" stars Al Pacino and Meryl Streep picked up the awards for best lead actor and lead actress in a miniseries.

"There are some days when I think I am overrated, but not today," a delighted Streep said from the stage. She also took a friendly dig at her co-nominated co-star, Emma Thompson, "who will hold a grudge for the rest of her life. But who cares?"

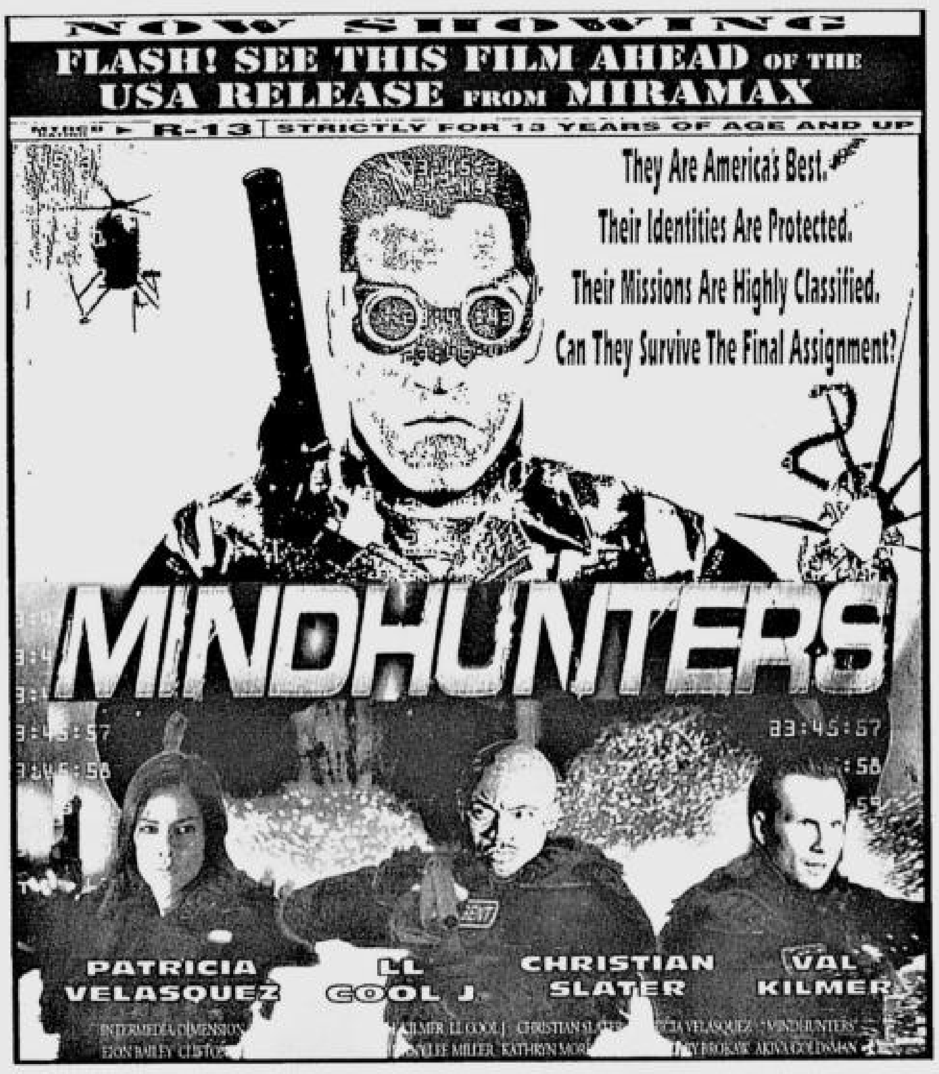
Kushner received a best writing award and Mike Nichols won best director for "Angels in America."

"Sopranos," about a conflicted New Jersey mob boss, earned four Emmys in all. Michael Imperioli was named best supporting actor in a drama series for his role as the hit man nephew, and Drea de Matteo, who played his ill-fated girlfriend, won for best supporting actress in a drama series.

It was the first time a cable network show had won for best drama. "Sopranos" creator David Chase said the series would end next year, after a sixth season.

Besides the victory for Grammer, who played the lovable elitist Dr. Frasier

'SOPRANOS'/A22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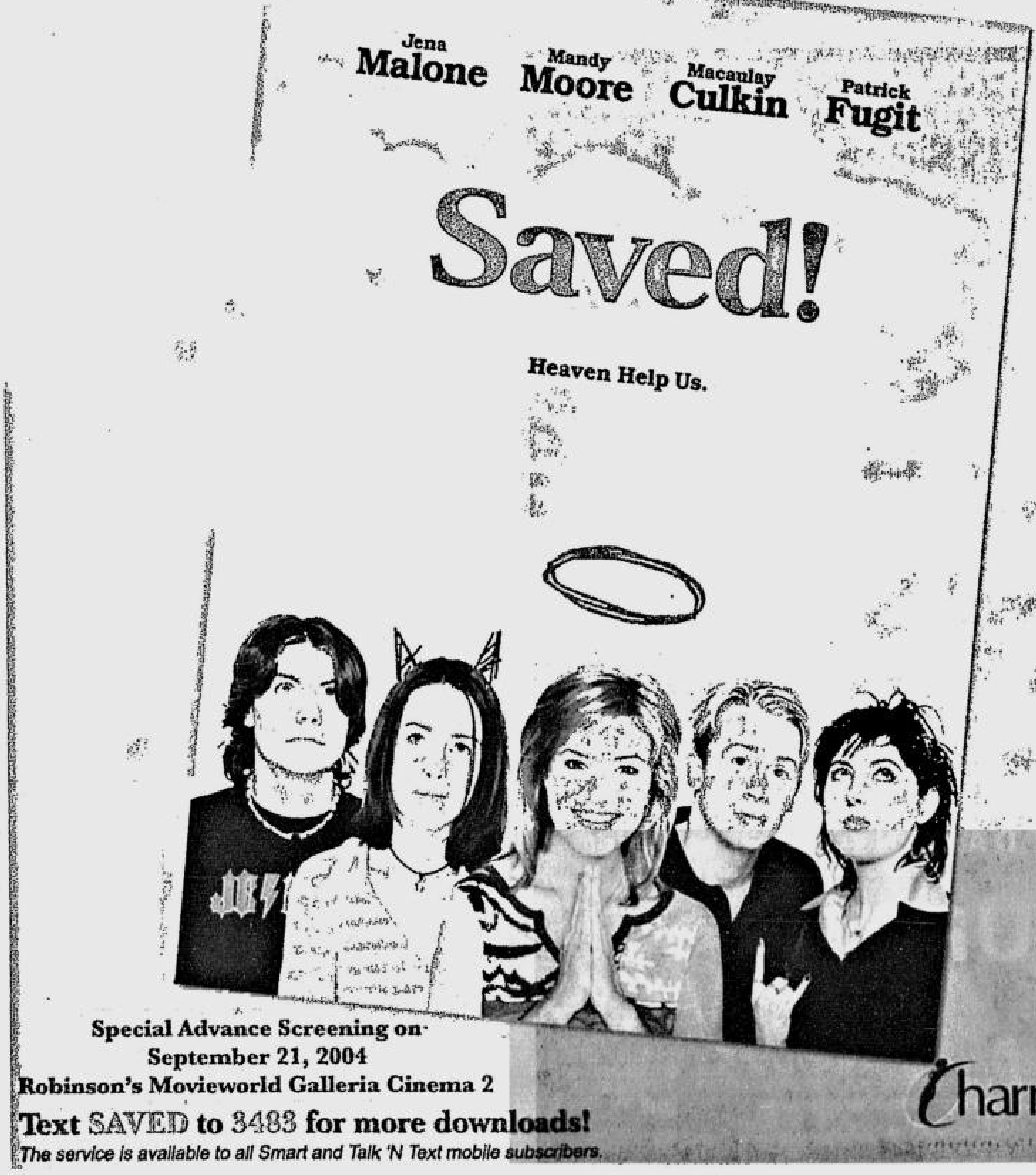
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Smart, Globe world's biggest text earners

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE UNDISPUTED texting capital of the world has continued to enrich wireless carriers Globe Telecom Inc. and Smart Communications Inc., based on data culled by Global mobile Suppliers Association or GSA.

Between 38 and 41 percent of revenue of the two Philippine wireless players came from data services during the first quarter, according to GSA.

GSA is a consortium of global mobile telecom providers like Nokia, Ericcson, Alcatel, Siemens and Lucent Tecnologies.

Using figures from EMC World Cellular Data Metrics as of June 2004, Globe Telecom booked about 38 percent and Smart got 41 percent of total revenue in the first quarter from data.

Globe and Smart officials said that more than 90 percent of their data revenue came from text messaging or SMS. In the first quarter, Globe and Smart generated revenue of P12 billion and P15 billion, respectively.

Subscriber count also went up at the end of the first half to 16.1 million for Smart from 14.4 million and to 10.5 million for Globe from 9.1 million during the first quarter.

Smart spokesperson Ramon Isberto said that there could be more than 200 million text messages being sent daily and passing through the three carriers (including third-player Sun Cellular). But he stressed that not all of these SMS were billed.

Alfred Ling, GSA chair in the Asia-Pacific region, said that data revenues could be derived from short messaging system, multi media messaging, surfing and even chatting.

"The Philippines is a country where data usage and GSM are at their highest. A lot of voice users will use more and more data using hand phones but it's not a matter of data taking revenue from voice services," said Ling.

Globe and Smart topped the list of 32 GSM providers in the world that generate revenues from data services.

The two Philippine giants surpassed three Japanese players NTT DoCoMo, KDD and Vodafone in terms of maximizing revenues from non-voice services. The three Japanese telecom players booked between 20 and 25 percent of revenues from data services.

The remaining 27 other mobile players using the GSM technology derived 15 to 20 percent of turnover from non-voice operations, which include the so-called third generation or 3G services that offer quick downloading of data.

"I think the data reflects the nature of our market. It is a combination of economics and cultural. Economics because text messaging is considered cheap compared to voice calls and cultural because it is typical among Pinoys to be indirect and non-confrontational," Isberto said.

Jones Campos, assistant vice president of Globe, said the Philippines had remained the world's texting capital. "I think we still hold that distinction because nobody is claiming otherwise."

Restructured loans still end up sour

By Doris C. Dumlao

MORE than half of the debts restructured by Philippine banks for borrowers knocked down by the Asian currency crisis ended up in default again, indicating that a lot of local enterprises were still barely surviving on their cash flows.

As of end-July this year, the banking system had P134.79 billion worth of restructured loans, of which 54.53 percent or P73.5 billion were non-performing, based on a Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas report.

The ratio rose by 4.34 percentage points from 50.19 percent as of end-June as non-performing restructured loans went up by 5.7 percent.

Mike Ordinanza, assistant vice president at Bancommerce Investment Capital, said these numbers meant that there would be a second or third wave of restructuring for a lot of borrowers, and banks would likely have no choice but to agree to more concessions.

"The restructuring deals should take into account the operational capability of the borrower," he said in an interview with the Inquirer.

When the Asian crisis erupted in 1997, Ordinanza said the banks wanted to collect at all cost and were reluctant to restructure.

But generally, foreclosure was always the last option because of the banking system's rising real and other properties owned and acquired (ropoa) as well as the costly foreclose proceedings.

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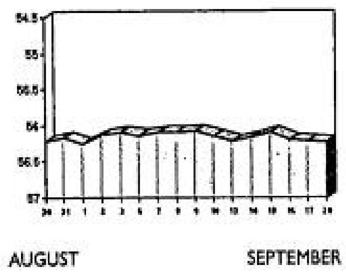

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STOCK MARKET

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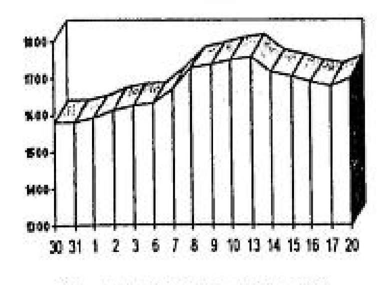


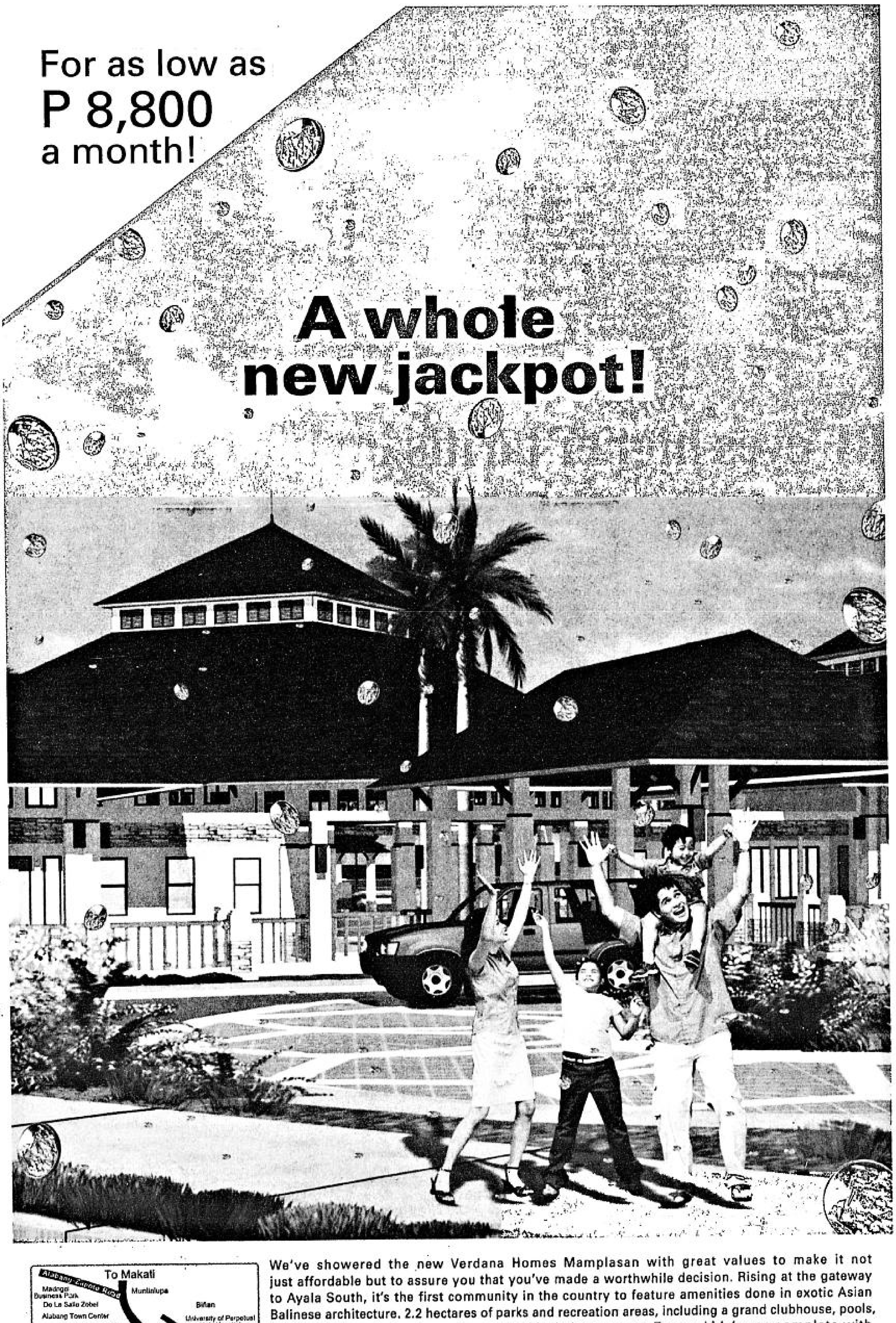
(See stock market report on Page B2)

Stocks end losing streak

STOCKS ended higher yesterday after five days of losses as players returned to the market to seek stocks looking oversold such as dominant phone firm PLDT and top conglomerate Ayala Corp..

Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT), which fell more than 8 percent over the past five sessions, rose 1.15 percent or P20 to P1,345. It was the most active stock and accounted for 25 percent of total trade.

Ayala Corp., which has interests in property, telecommunications, and banking, rose 3.33 percent or 20 centavos to P6.20 after dropping more than 6 percent in the last six days. *Reuters*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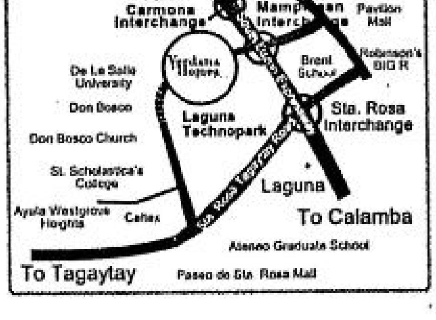
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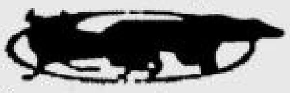

Ron Nathan

MY ARTICLE is shorter than usual because I still have a cold, sore throat, fever and cannot walk.

I have taken everything imaginable and gargled with salt water, ginger, Bactidol and cyanide but nothing works.

So instead of jokes, the editor has kindly allowed me to write of an adventure in Thailand, which I am sure will captivate you.

I decided back in 1970 to visit a monastery in Bangkok, to learn how to become a monk. They welcomed me and allowed me to stay overnight, while they explained to be that it would take six months.

I would have to shave my head, beg for food and not be touched by women. The last part was the hardest, because I would rather be chased than chaste.

Still, I agreed, but while I was there, I heard a wondrous sound that imbued me with a feeling that I understood the meaning of the universe. It was a sense of utter tranquility and joy.

I asked where the sound came from but they replied, "We cannot tell you because you are not a monk." So I studied for long hours, suffered intense deprivation and learned all about the life of Lord Siddhartha and how he sought enlightenment.

My determination paid off and when the six months were up, I joined 20 others in the process of initiation. As it happened, I was last in the queue.

With mounting excitement, I reached a locked door and a monk handed me a key. Behind the door was another door made of stone. Another monk handed me a second key, but this led to a door made of rubies.

Then a third door made of sapphires, a fourth door made of emeralds, a fifth door made of topaz, a sixth made of amethyst and finally, a seventh door made of gold. A monk gave me the last key and stepped aside.

Trembling, I opened the last door, and there was the source of that ethereal sound --------, but I cannot tell you what it was because you are not a monk.

Before angry readers kill me, I would like to say Hi to Cheryl's teachers.

* * *

I received lots of telephone calls and e-mails from my subscribers last week because of my excellent advice to SELL EVERYTHING.

You read it on Tuesday but they received it on Monday, and I liquidated my discretionary accounts right at the peak, from which it went down 80 points by Friday.

It can hardly be a coincidence since I have done this 10 times in succession to within a day, over a period of around 18 months.

This implies that the average length of each cycle is about six weeks but they vary considerably and the last cycle was explosive, following a breakout of the 1,600 level on the PHISIX.

I believe that the rest of the year will be more volatile so I have slightly increased the speed of the indicator and, if necessary, I will turn it up another notch.

What amazes me is the total lack of interest in my article last week on SUPPORT and RESISTANCE. When I wrote my tips on HOW TO BECOME A BETTER INVESTOR, I received an average of 30 e-mails a day throughout. But although I felt that I had explained the psychology of why SUPPORT and RESISTANCE works, rather well, I only got one e-mail asking for the formula.

Clearly, people are simply not interested if it means that they have to look at charts, so I am no longer planning to write about Japanese candlesticks. All they really want are tips, regardless of whether there are any fundamentals to support them or not.

Well, I prefer to use scientific methods, but just for a joke, I told subscribers to put their life savings into a garbage stock that has never made a profit. They knew that I was joking but it jumped 50 percent on huge volume.

In retrospect, I wish I had bought some.

The foreign brokers who control our market have been steadily buying TEL and to a lesser extent GLOBE. Two weeks ago, they invested P800 million in six days, half of it in these two stocks.

Then last week, they decided to take their profits especially on TEL, and since these stocks are important constituents of the index, the fall initially was fairly dramatic.

Where the market goes from here depends largely on whether they continue selling. Yesterday, they were net sellers of P58 million, P48 million of which was in TEL, even though it closed higher.

Unfortunately, this brings us back to politics and in particular to the PORKUPINES, who occupy the Senate and Congress. I have changed the spelling because the letter C is conspicuously absent from the Filipino language. Any resemblance to PORK is purely coincidental.

In my English dictionary, porcupines are defined as slow-moving creatures with little sense of porpoise. As the lawmakers have only passed one tax-raising bill in the last three years, I think they qualify.

The President desperately needs some action before they recess on Sept. 25 for three weeks. The Amnesty bill is not much use. Why should tax-evaders suddenly become honest? Previous amnesties have brought little result. Tax on sin products is a MUST, except for the Cardinal.

She would like to take away their pork but they have got her over a barrel. I expect they will pass a couple of bills, but they must do more before Christmas.

I think that foreign investors will give us the benefit of the doubt until the New Year and will probably hold their stocks until then because they will not want their Philippine portfolio to show a loss on Dec. 31.

It makes life difficult for the fund managers to justify their investments to their superiors. After the New Year, they will reassess the situation. If four bills or more have been passed, the index could go much higher but if nothing is done, they could well decide to quit our market altogether.

Lastly, don't try to become a GOCC by using political influence or donations. Build up a food empire slowly over the years. Do it the GOCCong way.

When the degree of risk falls into the BUY zone, I would tell you----- but you are not a subscriber. *mrbearbull@hotmail.com*

ENERGY CONSERVATION MOVE

RP eyes higher tariffs on big cars

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE GOVERNMENT is considering the doubling of import tariffs on big cars coming from outside Southeast Asia, in a bid to promote energy conservation.

Trade Undersecretary Elmer C. Hernandez said in an interview that the government was studying the possibility of raising to 60 percent the most favored nation tariff on imported vehicles.

The government would not touch tariffs imposed on imports and exports within the region, which is up to between 1 percent and 3 percent for parts and components, and up to 5 percent for completely built units.

Hernandez said the proposed change would be applied to vehicles with an engine displacement of more than two liters.

He said that, at the same time, the government was encouraging the manufacture of small vehicles or those with engine displacements of a maximum of one liter.

Hernandez said that to promote the use of small vehicles, government might again allow the duty-free importation of complete knocked-down kits.

"We are also exploring a similar measure for motorcycles," he said.

"We have not identified a [dividing engine size], but right now motorcycles with 750 cc engines and above are considered big bikes," he added.

In a statement, Trade Secretary Cesar V. Purisima said the government was encouraging auto assemblers to put up hybrid car manufacturing facilities in the country, and take advantage of the investment incentives given to pioneer projects.

"We are promoting the country as a manufacturing base to these firms, so they can introduce new fuel efficient and environment friendly vehicles in the local market," Purisima said.

He said the government envisioned cars that could run on a combination of two or more fuel sources as one of the solutions to the country's pollution problem and its high fuel import bill.

"Hybrid cars will be in demand in countries like the United States, Canada, members of the European Union, New Zealand and Australia, all of which are introducing stringent environmental laws," Purisima said.

The Omnibus Investment Code of 1987 provides tax incentives and other fiscal and non-fiscal perks to pioneer automotive projects provided that:

At least $100 million is invested, including acquisition of existing assets and facilities; export of at least 10,000 vehicles units; at least $20 million incremental investments for modernization or expansion and manufacture of generic vehicles that are designed for the Asian market.

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Seminars will be held at Suite 1207 12th Floor, Makati Cinema Square Tower, Don Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City on the following dates:

- Friday, September 24, 2004 at 6:30 p.m.
- Saturday, September 25, 2004 at 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.
- Sunday, September 26, 2004 at 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

INTERESTED PARTIES WILL BE PRE-QUALIFIED BY PHONE
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Metro Pacific's Lim new Citra president

By Clarissa S. Batino

JOSE Ma. Lim, president of First Pacific Co. subsidiary Metro Pacific Corp., was appointed president and chief executive officer of Citra Metro Manila Tollways Corp.

The appointment was approved during a special board meeting last Sept. 15, according to Metro Pacific's disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange.

Lim was chief operating officer of the tollway company, before he was named president, replacing Cezar Quiambao.

Metro Pacific is the Philippine subsidiary of First Pacific, a Hong Kong-based conglomerate with interests in real estate and telecommunications.

Lim, according to a Metro Pacific disclosure, is "crafting a new business plan for the company that will lead to the completion of the Skyway project and restore value to its shareholders."

Lim recently assumed the day-to-day management of CMMTC as COO and had been working closely with the tollway firm's board of directors, its Indonesian principals and other significant stakeholders, the Metro Pacific disclosure said.

Metro Pacific owns 10 percent of Citra Metro Manila Tollways Corp., through Metro Strategic Infrastructure Holdings Inc.

Metro Pacific chair Manuel Pangilinan said First Pacific was interested in expanding its presence in the Philippines, through infrastructure projects such as the integration of the South Luzon road network.

First Pacific, a company that Pangilinan founded in the early 80's using the capital of Indonesia's Salim clan, had been looking to expand in the region through telecommunications or food.

But its expansion plans in the region shifted to infrastructure, after the government invited investors to consider putting money into the rehabilitation and integration of the South Luzon road network.

Pangilinan said the Hong Kong-based conglomerate would like to increase its stake in the Manila infrastructure project and become a more meaningful joint venture partner of Indonesian firm P.T. Citra Lamtoro Gung Persada.

The Indonesian firm, together with state-owned Philippine National Construction Corp., owns Citra Metro Manila Tollways Corp., which owns and operates the 9.3-kilometer Skyway or elevated highway running from Magallanes to Bicutan.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of September 20, 2004)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	17	17	16.75	17	12,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	44.5	44.5	44	44.5	638,300
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	41.5	41.5	41.5	41.5	10,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	27.5	28	27	27.5	220,600
Philippine National Bank	22.5	22.5	22.5	22.5	5,500
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	30,000
Security Bank Corp.	21.75	21.75	21.25	21.25	28,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	24.5	24.5	24.5	24.5	5,700
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
First Metro Invest. Corp.	165	165	165	165	370
Manulife Financial Corp.	2435	2435	2435	2435	210
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	119	119	119	119	10
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1605	1605	1600	1600	3,560
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.68	0.68	0.67	0.68	400,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	1010	1020	1010	1020	33,740
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.0525	0.0525	0.0525	0.0525	3,000,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.037	0.037	0.037	0.037	2,000,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	510,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	2.42	2.42	2.4	2.42	18,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	2.7	2.8	2.7	2.75	8,184,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co	0.27	0.28	0.26	0.26	350,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1350	1355	1345	1345	124,340
Ivantage Corp.	0.66	0.67	0.65	0.65	2,460,000
Philweb Corp.	0.011	0.012	0.011	0.012	2,100,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	15.25	15.5	15.25	15.5	16,900
Manila Electric Co. B	23.25	23.5	23	23.25	219,900
Petron Corp.	2.7	2.8	2.7	2.75	5,962,000
Salcon Power Corp.	2.22	2.22	2.22	2.22	24,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.12	1.12	1.12	1.12	1,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.46	1.46	1.42	1.44	520,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	4.75	4.95	4.75	4.9	2,082,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.38	0.39	0.38	0.39	150,000
Union Cement Corp.	2.32	2.34	2.3	2.34	2,002,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	90,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	2,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	26.5	26.5	26	26	74,100
Swift Food Inc.	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	10,000
San Miguel Corp. A	57.5	57.5	57	57.5	24,000
San Miguel Corp. B	69.5	70	69.5	70	18,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	300,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.005	0.005	0.005	0.005	34,000,000
Ayala Corp.	6	6.3	6	6.2	13,890,000
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.39	0.39	0.3	0.37	180,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	3.3	3.3	3.25	3.3	193,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	12	12	12	12	100
A. Soriano Corp.	1.38	1.42	1.38	1.4	389,000
APC Group Inc.	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	200,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	5,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.58	1.6	1.58	1.6	73,000
ATN Holdings Inc. B	1.58	1.58	1.58	1.58	20,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp.	1.16	1.18	1.06	1.06	13,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	13.5	13.5	13.25	13.25	20,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.56	0.57	0.56	0.57	290,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.12	0.13	0.12	0.125	1,120,000
Cadp Group Corp.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	46,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.26	0.27	5,440,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.15	0.15	0.145	0.145	1,470,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	2.2	2.2	2.14	2.16	2,243,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.034	0.035	0.034	0.034	8,000,000
Fil-Estate Corp.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	10,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	4.05	4.05	4.05	4.05	20,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	26.5	26.5	26	26	1,879,500
Global Equities Inc.	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.075	2,300,000
Ionics Inc.	1.96	2.12	1.96	2.12	1,197,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.7	1.76	1.6	1.6	1,964,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.18	1.18	1.18	1.18	550,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.53	0.53	0.5	0.5	39,330,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	14,000,000
Prime Media Holdings Inc.	1.06	1.06	1.06	1.06	15,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.84	0.84	0.84	0.84	20,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	50,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.165	0.17	0.165	0.165	2,800,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.205	0.205	0.205	0.205	150,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	330,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Active Alliance Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	20,000
Metro Alliance Holdings	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42	50,000
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.7	1.74	1.7	1.74	282,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	1	1	1	1	80,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.69	0.69	2,050,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.37	0.38	0.37	0.37	1,290,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.65	0.67	0.63	0.63	2,010,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.34	0.34	620,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-Cbn Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	20.75	21	20.75	21	176,500
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	6.2	6.5	6.2	6.5	334,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6	6.2	6	6.2	6,629,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.51	0.51	0.51	0.51	100,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.46	0.46	0.43	0.43	13,660,000
EIB Realty Developers Inc.	0.14	0.15	0.135	0.15	530,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.36	0.37	0.35	0.36	13,470,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.02	1.04	1.02	1.02	4,900,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.225	0.225	0.215	0.215	1,000,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.45	0.47	0.43	0.46	2,700,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	1.92	1.92	1.92	1.92	86,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.1	6.2	6.1	6.1	15,924,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	9,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	3	3	3	3	80,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.215	0.215	0.215	0.215	320,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.015	0.016	0.015	0.015	88,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.018	0.018	0.017	0.018	84,600,000
Omico Corp.	0.0065	0.007	0.006	0.006	564,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.029	0.029	0.029	0.029	800,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.41	0.41	0.41	0.41	180,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	5,000,000
Interport Res.	0.0044	0.0044	0.004	0.0042	10,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	5,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.004	0.0042	0.004	0.0042	10,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	26,000,000
Pacifica	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	4,700,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.038	0.038	0.035	0.037	3,900,000

DISCLOSURES

ELECTED directors of **Medco Holdings Inc.** were Stephen Riady, John Lee, David Yeh, Vicente Ang, Dionisio Carpio Jr., Caly Ang, Solomon Castro, Say Hing Wong and Edna Reyes.

* * *

A.SORIANO Corp.'s 400,000 shares were purchased by its wholly owned subsidiary, Anscor Consolidated Corp.

* * *

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission approved **Vivant Corp.**'s equity restructuring request to wipe out its end-2003 deficit of over P221.3 million against the company's adjusted capital in excess of par value of over P229.6 million.

* * *

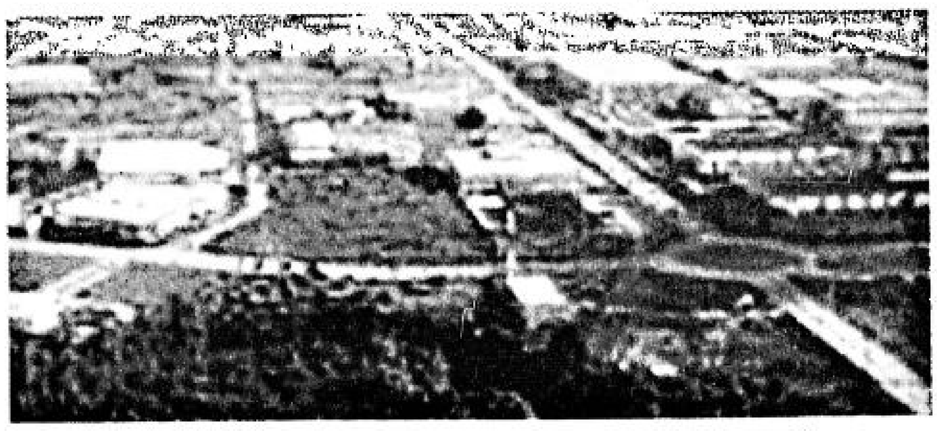
PHILIPPINE Bank of Communications' governance committee, which serves as the mother committee to the nomination, compensation and remuneration, and performance evaluation subcommittees, was reorganized. Current members are J. Antonio Quila, Johnny Cobankiat, Ralph Nubla Jr., Enrique Luy Sr., Carlos Chung, Ruben Almendras, Renato Peronilla and Jose Luis Javier with Ernesto Luy as alternate member. The audit committee was also reorganized and now composed of Peronilla, Chung, Edwin Luy, Quila, with Luy Sr. as alternate member. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

CURRENCIES

September 20, 2004 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.820681165	1.000000	56.1790
Japan	Yen	0.007471	0.009104	0.5115
United Kingdom	Pound	1.471892	1.793500	100.7570
Hongkong	Dollar	0.105224	0.128215	7.2030
Switzerland	Franc	0.647072	0.788457	44.2947
Canada	Dollar	0.632753	0.771010	43.3146
Singapore	Dollar	0.485668	0.591786	33.2459
Australia	Dollar	0.572262	0.697301	39.1737
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.176931	2.652590	149.0199
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.218843	0.266660	14.9807
Brunei	Dollar	0.484235	0.590040	33.1479
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000091	0.000111	0.0062
Thailand	Baht	0.019886	0.024231	1.3613
United Arab Emirates	Dirham	0.223449	0.272272	15.2960
Euro	Euro	1	1.218500	68.4541
Argentina	Peso	0.273333	0.333056	18.7108
Brazil	REAL	0.285752	0.348189	19.5609
Denmark	Kroner	0.134428	0.163800	9.2021
India	Rupee	0.017927	0.021844	1.2272
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.215998	0.263193	14.7859
Mexico	New Peso	0.071647	0.087302	4.9045
New Zealand	Dollar	0.541168	0.659413	37.0452
Norway	Kroner	0.118686	0.144619	8.1246
Pakistan	Rupee	0.013934	0.016978	0.9538
South Africa	Rand	0.125605	0.153050	8.5982
Korea	Won	0.000716	0.000873	0.0490
Sweden	Kroner	0.109962	0.133989	7.5274
Syria	Pound	0.022715	0.027678	1.5549
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.024241	0.029538	1.6594
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000428	0.000522	0.0293

Senate mulls over Epira changes

By Michelle V. Remo



ECOZONE firms are asking for direct power connection to the National Power Corp., to reduce their cost of electricity.

THE SENATE will move to amend the Electric Power Industry Reform Act (Epira) to give local industries, especially the electronics sector, a reprieve from high electricity prices.

Electricity cost, the second highest in the region after Japan, was tagged as one of the main deterrents to business expansion in the Philippines.

During yesterday's Senate hearing on the economic impact of the Arroyo administration's proposed revenue measures, Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr. called for a resolution among legislators to amend the Epira law, so that industries can already get their electricity directly from the National Power Corp., or its independent power producers.

Should industries be allowed to directly source their power requirements from Napocor, their cost would be significantly reduced since they won't have to pay the distribution cost charged by utilities.

Currently, consumers are not allowed to directly source electricity from Napocor or its IPPs.

Instead, electricity is bought from power distributors, like the Manila Electric Co. (Meralco) and rural electric cooperatives.

Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile recommended that legislators delete a provision in the Epira law which said that "open access," or sourcing of electricity directly from power generators like Napocor, would not be allowed until 70 percent of Napocor's assets are privatized.

"If we will simply delete this one sentence in the Epira law, then we can already have open access," Enrile said.

The government estimated that Napocor would only be able to sell at least 70 percent of its assets by 2006.

The consensus among members of the Senate committee on economic affairs to move for the amendment of the Epira came after the Semiconductor and Electronics Industries of the Philippines (Seipi) said the sector was losing out to foreign competitors because of the high cost of doing business in the country, largely brought about by expensive electricity.

Seipi executive Dan Lachica, also president of semiconductor firm First Sumiden Circuits Inc., said that while global demand for electronics and semiconductor grew by 25 percent, the Philippines' electronics and semiconductor sector was only growing at 8 percent.

He added that the Philippines was also losing huge investment opportunities to China, due largely to high electricity cost.

He cited one semiconductor company, which used to employ 2,000 workers, that was forced to shut down because of high costs.

He added that some multinational companies reduced their growth target this year from over 50 percent to only 10 percent, as electricity costs were expected to go even higher.

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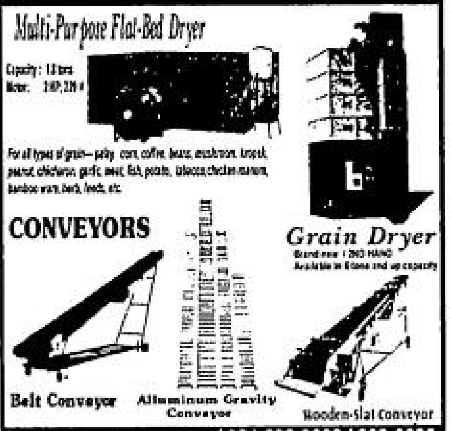

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1.0MM - 4,999,999	7.250	7.375	7.625
5.0MM - 9,999,999	7.375	7.500	7.750
10 million and up	7.500	7.625	7.875

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Training Calendar
(Last Quarter)

September
Practical Application of Treasury Risk Management (22 - 24)
Investing, Trading, and Marketing Fixed Income Securities (22 - 24)
Problem-Solving and Decision-Making (27 - 28)
EDEW: Enhancing Distributors' Effectiveness Workshop (29 - 30)

November
The Business of Abundance (3 - 5)
Integrated Human Resource Management System (3 - 5)
Maximizing Your Export Marketing Performance (6 - Dec. 11)
Evaluating Return of Training Investment (8 - 9)
Selling, Maintaining, and Developing Key Accounts (8 - 10)
Credit Analysis and the Credit Process (8 - 12)
Training Design (10 - 12)
Merchandise and Inventory Management (13 & 20)
Techniques of Financial Analysis (15 - 19)
Demand Management (19 & 26)
Retail Marketing Strategy (22 - 23)
Taking the Tech Out of Technical Writing (23 - 25)
Negotiation Skills 2 (25 - 26)
Retail Financial Management (25 - 26)

October
Accounting for Non-Accountants I (4 - 6)
Finance 101 (11 - 15)
Win-Win Negotiation for Relationship Banking (14 - 15)
Management Skills for Field Sales Managers (18 - 20)
CATCH: Creative Approaches to Complaints Handling (21 - 22)
Corporate Governance and Risk Management For Banks (20 - 21)
Corporate Governance For SEC Registered Firms (26 - 27)
Credit Risk Management Program (27 - 29)
Negotiation Skills 1 (28 - 29)

December
Total Quality Management (4 & 11)
Retail Marketing Management (4 - 5)
Time Management (6 - 7)
Effective Business Communication (13 - 16)

DIPLOMA AND CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

Marketing Core Program	Sept.24 - Nov.20	Diploma in Project Management	
Treasury Certification Program	Oct. 4 - 19	• Practical Project Management	Oct. 11 - 14
Leadership and Management Development Program (LMDP)	Oct. 7 - Dec. 18	• Applied Project Management	Nov. 8-9, 15-16
ITC - Modular Learning System		• Project Time & Cost Management	Nov. 22-23, Dec. 6-7
• Strategic Procurement	Oct. 21 - 23	Advanced Management Development Program (AMDP)	
• Supplier Management	Nov. 8 - 10	• Urban Planning (Launching)	Nov. 5 - 6
• Inventory Management	Nov. 15 - 16		

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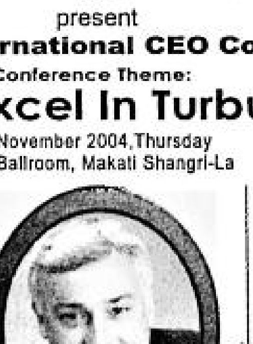

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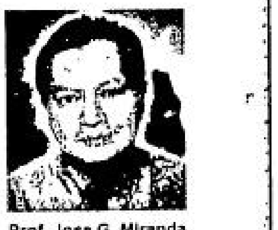
Relate better to your customers and grow your business now!
October 4 - 7, 2004 | 6:00 - 9:00 pm

EQUIS ACCREDITED
Understand key concepts of Direct Marketing and Relationship Marketing such as focus, interactivity, measurability and profitability -- direct from the "gurus" and practitioners of Direct Marketing.

- Enhance your ability to scale down big business concepts to SME applications and infrastructures
- Augment your skills and integrate a new marketing tool to accelerate sales, cross-sell other products and services, and ensure lifetime relationship to maximize your investments
- The course, Direct & Relationship Marketing for Entrepreneurs is designed for owner entrepreneurs, managers and senior staff of small, medium enterprises to help them gain mastery of the skill. Participants will learn a direct and relationship approach towards customers and at the same time measure the impact on their enterprises.
- The faculty will be led by Prof. Jose G. Miranda, DMAP Board Director and long-time practitioner of Direct and Relationship Marketing.



Prof. Jose G. Miranda
Program Director

Enroll now and find out how you can revitalize your enterprise through Direct Marketing!

ASIAN CENTER FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP
ASIAN INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT

For inquiries and reservation call:
Ms. Lorna Balina / Ms. Luvy Villanueva
Tel +632 892-4011 to 25
Telefax +632 813-3302
Email ace@mail.aim.edu.ph
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PASIG

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MAKATI

SANLO DUPLEX 526-8048

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PASAY

PASAY BACK OF LRT EDSA TEL 3396678, 09209130158

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MANILA

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nr LaSalle St.Scho 4042186

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120 MLA 7118679/4113301

BF PQUE 8275345/8257524

•FURNISH PASAY 8872865•

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IBB

Marketing Assistant, Philippines

The International Broadcasting Bureau (IBB), a part of the United States Government, is looking for a Marketing Assistant in Manila to perform a wide variety of routine marketing related activities. The IBB includes the Voice of America radio and television service, one of the largest newsgathering organizations in the world and a leader in providing news and entertainment programs around the globe.

Applicant MUST have an in-depth knowledge of the media environment in the Philippines; 3 years experience working for a broadcast station; excellent interpersonal and negotiation skills; be able to travel occasionally; be fluent in spoken and written English; be able to work independently with little supervision. Applicant must be mature, resourceful, have initiative, etc.

Responsibilities: Assist Regional Marketing Director (RMO) in Bangkok; Maintain close contacts with regional/U.S. IBB offices; Update IBB affiliate database; Monitor and research media developments in the Philippines; monitor VOA broadcast on various stations in the Philippines; arrange for equipment installation; write weekly reports; negotiate rebroadcast agreements & perform other duties as assigned.

Fax your detailed resumé and letter to Joyce Ngoh at 66-2-205-5707, send by email to jmngoh@ibb-bkk.org or mail it to *IBB, The Millennia Bldg., Rm 1501, 62 Langsuan Rd., Bangkok 10330, Thailand.* Applications must be received by close of business on September 24, 2004.

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE OR RENT

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![VICTORIAS MILLING COMPANY, INC.]

VICTORIAS
MILLING COMPANY, INC.

NOTICE OF SUGAR BIDDING

VICTORIAS MILLING COMPANY, INC. with Millsite Office at Victorias City, Negros Occidental invites all interested bidders to participate in the **bidding of 73,162.97 LKG Domestic "B" VMC Raw Sugar** intended for refining. Refined sugar will be withdrawn from the mill.

Interested bidders shall **submit** the following documents to our **Makati** or **Millsite Office** on or before the scheduled bidding date:

1. Original and one (1) Certified photocopy of sugar trading license/SRA Registration
2. Office Address, Telephone Number and sketch of location of business office of the Sugar Trading Firm
3. Duly notarized Special Power of Attorney from the single proprietor or Board Resolution from the Secretary/Chairman certifying that the representative is presently connected with the entity and is authorized to represent the firm in the bidding and all activities pertinent thereto.

The **bidding** shall be conducted **at the VMC Makati Office** located at **9126 Sultana corner Honradez Streets, Barangay Olympia, Makati City** on **September 23**, 2004 at **3:00 P.M.**

Floor price shall be announced before opening the sealed bids. VMC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and accept only such offers, which in its judgment are most reasonable and advantageous to the company.

For more details, please call our Millsite Office, Sugar Marketing Division, c/o Ms. **Terry Cequiña** at Tel. No. **(034) 399-3382; 09189124130** or our Makati Office, c/o Ms. **Lina Pilla** at Tel. No. **(02) 896-3425; (02) 896-0381.**

(Sgd.) ABELARDO E. BUGAY
OIC & Senior Vice President

(PDI–Sept. 20 & 21, 2004)

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

TUTORS
- Education Major (Preferably – English)
- Board Qualified
- Fluent in English (Orally/Grammatically)

SECRETARY I / II
- Preferable Mass Com/Commerce Graduate
- Excellent Oral and Written English Communication Skills
- Computer Literate

COOKS AND JANITORS
- Must be High School Graduate

Bring : Resumé, Transcript of Records, 2 ID Photos, Health Certificate, NBI and Police Clearance.

Please apply at:

MTM CEBU LANGUAGES INSTITUTE, INC.
23 PANAY AVENUE, QUEZON CITY
Contact Person: Mr. Nathan Youn
Contact No.: 926-8835 (Between 8-10 a.m./7-9 p.m.)
09204733735 / 09178404370

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NOTICE OF LOSS

Lost ACR Issued To Mr Troy Don Franklin By Bureau Of Immigration On October 17, 2004 Makati City, PDI- Sept. 20 -24, 2004

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

EXTRA INCOME 7126374

MACTAN CEBU
INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY
LAPU-LAPU CITY PHILIPPINES

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

1. The Mactan-Cebu International Airport Authority (MCIAA) through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) with office at Mactan, Lapu lapu City invites all interested bidders to register and to apply for eligibility and to bid for the Design, Supply, Construction and Installation, inicuding Test and Commissioning of One (1) 5/6.25 MVA, 69/13.8 KV Power Substation with "SCADA" System for the Mactan-Cebu International Airport.
2. Approved Budget of the Contract (ABC) will be announce to all qualified bidders.
3. This shall be funded by the Mactan-Cebu International Airport Authority (MCIAA) as per approved budget for the Year 2004.
4. The winning Contractor shall complete the works within Two Hundreds Seventy (270) calendar days (9 months), counted from the date the winning Contractor received the Notice to Proceed.
5. Interested bidders who may apply for eligibility should be;
   a. Filipino Citizen with DTI Registered Business Name or SEC Registration Certificate whichever may be appropriate under the existing laws of the Philippines, with at least seventy five (75%) percent of the outstanding capital stock belongs to citizen of the Philippines.
   b. Has Valid PCAB License, Specialty Electrical Works, at least Category A, Electrical Works classified as Medium B on Electrical Works or Temporary Certificate of Renewal issued by PCAB. (In case of a joint venture, the joint venture should be properly licensed by PCAB as to the Category and Classification required by MCIAA).
   c. Has record of experience for the last three (3) calendar years or more as Main Contractor of a 69kv (and above) Power Substraction Project with "SCADA" System. The contractors single largest contract which is similar and complexity to the project to be bid must be at least 50% of the Approved Budget of the Contract (ABC).
   d. Capable of Turn Key Basis Project (meaning the contract amount is payable in full 15 days after date of completion and acceptance of the project or whatever is stipulated in the contract.) No mobilization fee.
   e. Registered with PS-DBM in order to participate in the procurement activities of G-EPS.
6. For proper guidance interested bidders who may apply for eligibility must secure a copy of Eligibility Screening Documents from BAC Secretariat after payment of Non Refundable Fee of Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00) per copy.
7. Issuance of Eligibility Screening Documents will start September 22, 2004 until October 1, 2004 at BAC office.
8. Deadline for submission of duly accomplished Application for Eligibility, Forms, Documents, Statements and Contract's License not later than October 8, 2004 at BAC office.
9. Date of issuance of Notice of Eligibility/Ineligibility will be October 15, 2004.
10. Distribution of Bid Documents will be on October 18, 2004 until October 22, 2004 at BAC office during office hours upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P11,500.00 per copy.
11. Date and time of Pre Bid Conference will be on October 27, 2004, at 10:00 AM at BAC office.
12. Date and time of Bid Opening will be on November 10, 2004 at 10:00 AM at BAC office.
13. Competitive bidding will be conducted in accordance with RA 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act and its IRR and other applicable Government Laws, Act, Order, i.e., RA 4566 (Contractor's Law), RA 8792 (Electronic Commerce Act).
14. For more information, please contact the BAC Secretariat at telephone nos. 340-2486 loc 2050. Facsimile no. 341-4617 or check our website www.mactan-cebu-airport.com.ph.

(Sgd.) MARCELINO A. CORDOVA
Acting General Manager

(PDI--Sept. 21 & 28, 2004)

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BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

earnextranow.com code:atb2004 8531008 09178901851 Arlene

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INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

NEED INCOME? 2910770

RTW Wholesaler 3738821

Seeking Pinoy Entreprenuer to Expand Biz Globally. Sincerely Invite you to our Int'l Biz Preview held in Makati - Training Supervisor 0927-7114699

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DEFECT TV/COMPO 7325865

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RP seafarers honored at summit

IT'S THE FILIPINO seafarers' turn to shine as they celebrate the National Maritime Week with a bang on Sept. 23 to 26. A first ever summit will take place in honor of this affair to recognize the valiant efforts of our seafarers worldwide as strong anchors of our economy. Hosted by the United Filipino Seafarers under the leadership of their president engineer Nelson P. Ramirez, this summit will take place in Harrison Plaza Annex in Malate, Ermita. The summit will open doors of opportunities to the seafarers and their families and help them improve their standard of living. Resource persons and various leaders from government and business sectors have been invited to grace the event and share their expertise on generating activities.

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OBITUARIES

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Memorial Park
Mortuary
Viewing Chapels
Crematory
Bayani Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila
Trunk Line: (632) 845-2334 to 38

The Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines
The Clergy, The Religious & The Laity
of the
Roman Catholic Diocese of Urdaneta
and the Castro-Galang Families

Announce the Death in Grace and Peace of

MOST REV. JESUS C. GALANG, DD

(December 25, 1932-September 16, 2004)

Bishop of the Diocese of Urdaneta

His body lies in state at the Immaculate Conception Cathedral, Urdaneta City (Pangasinan).

Schedule of Daily Services:
6:00 am – Cathedral Mass
9:00 am – Masses by Vicariates
11:00 am – 3:00 pm – Visits/Masses by Visiting Priests/People
5:00 pm – Masses by Vicariates
6:00 pm – Wake/Vigil & Masses by Visiting Priests/People

Funeral Mass & Burial: September 22, 2004
6:00 am – Cathedral Mass
7:30 am – Necrological Services
9:00 am – Funeral Mass
President His Excellency
Most Rev. Oscar V. Cruz, DD
Archbishop : Lingayen-Dagupan
10:00 am – Interment : Cathedral Sacristy

RENATO "TOOTS" A. AQUINO

peacefully joined his Creator on September 19, 2004 at the age of 72.

His loving wife **Elvie**; children **Joyce & Gil, Gaye, Jolly & Jerry**, grandchildren **Maysie, Chloris, Wam, Darby, Chelsea & Gabby** request everyone to join in praying for his eternal rest and everlasting happiness.

His remains lie in state at the St. Martin de Porres Funeral Chapel, United Hills Village, East Service Road, Parañaque City.

Cremation will be on September 23, 2004, 1:00 p.m. at the Holy Trinity Chapel, Sucat, Parañaque.

Felipe "Boy" B. Donesa

Peacefully joined our Lord on September 17, 2004 at the age of 71.

He was a wonderful husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle & friend.

Our love is with you always and you will remain in our hearts.

Always your wife: **Luz "Guy" Bonifacio**; daughter: **Katheryn "Princess"**, son-in-law: **Wes Zuzak**, grandson: **Brendan**, siblings: **Fely, Flory, Junior, Nanding, Baby, Fred, Nita & Neni**; their families, relatives & friends.

Memorial service will take place on Tuesday, September 21, 2004 at 7:30 p.m., Mt. Carmel Shrine Parish Church, Broadway, New Manila, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Wednesday, September 22, 2004 at 12:00 noon, Loyola Crematory Services, Loyola Memorial Chapels, Inc. Edsa, Guadalupe, Makati City.

"...absent with the body to be present with the Lord."
— 2 Corinthians 5:8

CORAZON DIMAYUGA-KARAAN

Peacefully joined her Creator on September 16, 2004 at the age of 78.

Her loving family, husband **Rodolfo**; children **Dina, Evelyn** and **Rudy Gonzalvo, Gigi** and **Pop Balitaan; Niok** and **Joy**; sisters **Felicidad, Margie**, and **Isabel**; brothers **Felipe** and **Claro**; grandchildren, great grandchildren, nephews, nieces, sisters-in-law, brothers-in-law, and other relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Sanctuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati City.

Interment will be today, 21 September 2004 at Heritage Park, Taguig after the 2:00 PM Holy Mass.

Librada "Biding" Peña Villaluz Jose

Died in the Grace of the Lord on September 18, 2004 at the age of 79.

Her bereaved husband **Edgardo**; children **Girlie** and **Dale, Liza, Desi, Wency** and **Mamet**; grandchildren, brothers and sisters-in-law **Sesing** (†) and **Ely** (†), **Toning** and **Dode**, relatives and friends request prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Loyola Memorial Chapels, Sucat, Parañaque and will be transferred to Marilao Catholic Church on Saturday, September 25, 2004 at 11:00 a.m.

Interment will be after the 2:00 p.m. Mass.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.
Always caring...
INQUIRER OBITUARIES

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS
and bank-to-bank payments

Message of Thanks

We, the family and relatives of the late

RENE BANLUTA PELIAS

who joined his Creator on Sept. 9, 2004 sincerely convey our deepest gratitude & appreciation to all those who offered masses & prayers, sent flowers, attended the funeral rites & condoled with us in our moment of grief.

CLASSIFIEDS

'Urban Development Week' features NREA confab

THE CELEBRATION of "Urban Development Week," on Sept. 24-30 aimed at promoting national awareness on the importance of urban planning and development, will be highlighted by the holding of the 9th national convention and exhibits of the National Real Estate Association (NREA), the one – stop trade organization, on Sept. 23-25 at the Megatrade Hall 3, SM Megamall, EDSA, Mandaluyong City.

Considered as the biggest gathering of real estate professionals and housing industry practitioners, the NREA convention, also coinciding with its 13th founding anniversary, is focused on the theme, "Creating the New Filipino Community in the 21st Century."

Sen. Rodolfo G. Biazon, chairman of the Senate Committee on Housing and Resettlement, will lead the opening of the trade exhibits to usher in the convention and serve as its keynote speaker.

Day 1 luncheon speaker is DILG Sec. Angelo T. Reyes, who will talk on "The Role of Local Government Units in creating new Communities for the 21st Century."

Vice President Noli L. de Castro, concurrent chairman of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council, will be closing ceremony speaker on the second day, while Rep. Eduardo Zialcita, chairman, Committee on Housing of the Representatives will be luncheon speaker.

To celebrate its 13th founding anniversary on Sept. 24, NREA will have an Anniversary Cocktails to cap the two-day convention sessions.

In recognition of the importance of the convention, the Civil Service Commission has accredited the convention workshop sessions as compliance with training and career development for government workers, especially for employees of local government units.

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Jaro, Iloilo City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The **National Food Authority (NFA)**, Region 6 invites all sack manufacturers to participate in the bidding for the supply of 300,000 pieces more or less Palay Empty Sacks in accordance with NFA specifications and design with approved ABC of P2,637,000.00.

The schedule of bidding activities are as follows:

Activity	Date	Time
1. Issuance of Eligibility Requirements and Bid Forms	Sept. 23-30, 2004	8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
2. Pre-bidding Conference	October 5, 2004	1:30 PM
3. Submission and Opening of Eligibility and Bid Documents 2004	October 5, 2004	3:00 PM

Interested parties may secure the eligibility requirements and bid forms from the Secretariat c/o Ms. Marilou M. Paguntalan of NFA Iloilo Regional Office, 2nd Floor from September 23-30, 2004 after payment of a non-refundable/non-transferable fee of Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00).

For any inquiry, please contact RBAC Chairperson or Ms. Marilou M. Paguntalan at telephone numbers (033) 329-2165 and 320-6246.

The NFA reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals, to waive any required formality, technicality or defect therein and may accept the bid which is deemed most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **VILMA H. ZARRAGA, MNSA**
ARD/RBAC Chairperson

(PDI - Sept. 20, 21 & 22, 2004)

Send your resumé instantly. JOB MARKET
www.jobmarketonline.com

Republic of the Philippines
COMMISSION ON AUDIT
Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City, Philippines
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE (BAC)

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Commission on Audit (COA) invites eligible bidders to submit sealed bids for the Supply, Delivery, Installation, Testing and Commissioning and Training of Operators of s Digital Pre-Press System for the Professional Development Center, COA for which an Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) in the amount of Php5,000,000.00 has been approved.

Eligibility check, evaluation of bids and post-qualification shall in accordance with the applicable provisions of RA 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR), and are contained in the Bid Documents which may be obtained from the address below upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Five Thousand Pesos(Php5,000.00).

A Pre-Bid Conference shall be held at 2:00 p.m. of **October 11, 2004**. Bids must be submitted on or before 1:30 p.m. of October 25, 2004 at which time the bids will be opened.

(Sgd.) **ARCADIO B. CUENCO, Jr.**
Assistant Commissioner
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

Engr. Jocelyn Marilou C. Gamboa
State Auditor V
Procurement Division, General Services Office
Administrative Sector
COA Central Office
Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City
Telefax No. 931-7582
E-mail Address: jmcgamboa@coa.gov.ph

(PDI - Sept. 21, 2004)

People, Events & Products

E-mail: pr_pep@inquirer.com.ph
aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Aries Espinosa**

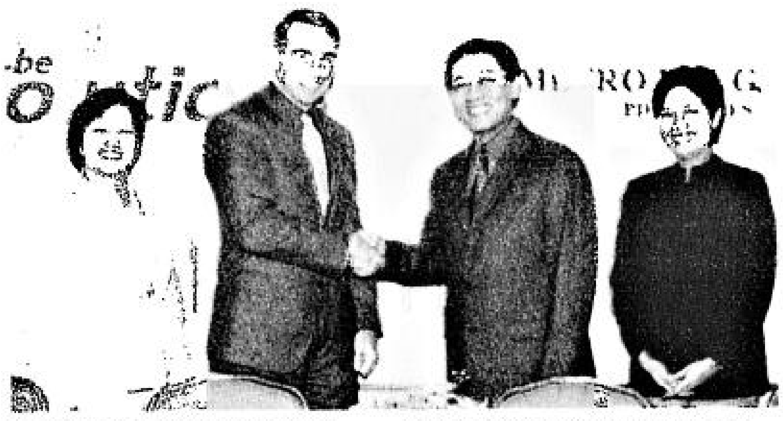
GlobeSolutions and Metro Drug consolidate partnership

CORPORATE solutions pioneer GlobeSolutions and premier pharmaceutical distributor Metro Drug Incorporated reaffirmed its long-standing partnership with Metro Drug's recent acquisition of additional business lines and upgrade of their existing mobile solutions packages.

"Metro Drug envisions itself as the premier provider and innovator in pharmaceutical distribution in the country," says David Ames, general manager of Metro Drug, "and a critical part of our success is finding the right partners and the right tools that are fundamental to our vision." Metro Drug has previously availed of GlobeSolutions' MobileMail and BusinessLoop to facilitate more effective communication within the company. MobileMail allows its users to remotely access email through a PDA phone, while BusinessLoop offers discounted rates on inter-company calls.

Metro Drug's latest collaboration with GlobeSolutions is geared towards increasing the efficiency and productivity of their extensive sales force stationed in various areas of the country. Metro Drug has chosen GlobeSolutions as the network carrier of their wireless ordering system. To maximize the potential of this new system, Metro Drug has upgraded the handsets of their existing GlobeSolutions lines to O2 XDA II units, one of the most sought after PDA phones in the market. Equipped with their powerful PDA phones, Metro Drug sales representatives are now capable of transmitting essential data such as orders and reports to the main office in Manila, even when they are in remote areas without a landline. "We're very excited about this new partnership with GlobeSolutions because it enables Metro Drug to speed the distribution of pharmaceuticals in the country," says Ames. "In fact, it is expected to cut at least a day off regular delivery times."

Customizable business packages that meet the individual demands of corporate clients such as Metro Drug are the trademark of GlobeSolutions. "We are very happy to offer Metro the necessary tools and network connectivity, that help them achieve better efficiencies and increased productivity, " says Dan David, Globe's head of corporate business. "By gaining better understanding of the evolving business issues and opportunities our clients face we are able to translate what we learn into relevant and practical solutions that provide business value to our clients."



METRO Drug general manager David Ames and Globe's head of corporate business Dan David look forward to future collaborations. Beside them are Metro Drug VP for HR Deborra Ilagan and Maridol Ylanan, head of GlobeSolutions sales.

How delicious it is to be a Globe Girlfriend

CHEF Joan Limuang at work during the free cooking session from Globe Girlfriends and Julius Maggi Kitchen.

MEMBERS of Globe Girlfriends received a most delicious treat from Globe and Maggi via a free special cooking lesson from Chef Joan Limuang at the Nestle Center in Rockwell, Makati recently.

Globe Girlfriends heeded the club's text invitation and trooped to the Julius Maggi Kitchen where they were welcomed by Chef Limuang who taught them how to prepare easy-to-do dishes such as Paella, Lasagna, Chicken Potato Casserole and Chicken Enchilada.

Globe Girlfriend Marife Macasaet, was especially grateful for the free cooking lesson. "I've been married for five years, but I never really learned how to cook delightful meals like these. I've been too afraid to try! Thanks to Globe Girlfriends, I now have the skills and the confidence to cook for my family," she said.

After the cooking lesson, the attendees of course got to sample the delicious eats Chef Limuang prepared. And on top of the Globe Girlfriends premium items they received, they also got free products from Maggi.

This is the first of a series of cooking classes with Maggi and Julius Maggi Kitchen. Globe Girlfriends will be taught how to make pasta and desserts in the next free cooking classes.

Globe Girlfriends lets women have life enhancing experiences that will enable her to be more fulfilled as a woman, making it a natural venue for female bonding and self-empowerment. Exclusive invites to must-see events, discounts on shopping at a variety of shops, dining and entertainment venues, pampering services at select spas and health clubs and fun and inspiring downloadables and free invitations to cooking demos such as this are the perks and privileges that await members of Globe Girlfriends Club.

Be a part of this exciting club by texting the keyword GIRLFRIENDS to 2209. Membership is free so join now and be ready to experience the ultimate connectivity tool for women - You've got it girlfriend!

Globe offers International Text Messaging to Korea

A RECENT study by the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (Owwa) reveals that currently there are more than 30,000 Filipinos living and working in South Korea. The same study shows that there is twice that number of Koreans presently residing in the Philippines as business investors or retirees. For the nationals of either country, no matter how comfortable and rewarding their life in South Korea or the Philippines may be, nothing beats a short text message from home to help ease the feeling of homesickness.

Globe understands the importance of constant communication between Filipino or Korean expats with their loved ones in either South Korea or the Philippines. And for that reason, Globe recently launched another major breakthrough service, International Text Messaging to Korea.

Always ahead in international connectivity, Globe Handyphone provides its subscribers with opportunities to connect to their loved ones abroad through international mobile services. Now, Globe expands its vast international network by pioneering the only international text service to Korea here in the Philippines. All Globe plan and prepaid subscribers can now text family and friends living and working in Korea by sending a text to "(+82)(CDMA mobile phone number)". Each message must not exceed the CDMA network standard of 80 characters. Globe International Text costs P10 for G Plan or G Flex subscribers and P15 for those on Globe Prepaid.

Globe International Text Messaging to Korea is another affirmation of Globe's ongoing commitment of bringing people together despite great distances. Now, Filipinos in Korea or Koreans in the Philippines can now get the comforts of home with just a few clicks on your cellphone.

International Philippines JCI
THE OUTSTANDING POLICEMEN OF THE PHILIPPINES (TOPP) 2004

AMAES REPS IN PJI'S MOA SIGNING FOR OUTSTANDING POLICEMEN

The AMA Education System, through its socio-corporate arm, the AMA Foundation headed by its president Amable Aguiluz IX, led sponsors by providing scholarships to dependents of the awardees for the Outstanding Policemen of the Philippines (Topp) during the MOA signing. The Topp is a project of the Philippine Jaycees Inc which confers awards to exceptional policemen and their outstanding achievements. The award also aims to motivate them towards performing their duties and responsibilities to the best of their abilities. The MOA which was held at the Camp Crame Multi-Purpose Hall, was attended by PNP top brass led by Gen. Edgardo Aglipay, JCI senators headed by national president Jose Jimenez III, project chair Bob Rivera, and sponsors led by AMA Education System, which was represented by Felizardo Colambo, VP-AMA Foundation and Johnny Ramos, VP for public relations.

C-CUBED CELEBRATES MAJOR FEAT

Recently, C-Cubed, together with its joint venture partner Source One Communications Asia, has been recommended by the TUV Management Philippines for the British Standard 7799 (BS7799) certification. This means that both organizations have excellently complied with world-class information security standards. Shown in photo during the formal awarding of the BS7799 certification are (from left) Eckie Gonzales, CEO of C-Cubed; Reyland Nepomuceno director for business development, TUV; Duane Cummins, COO of Soca and Pushkar Misra, President of Soca.

SIGNING CEREMONY BETWEEN WOFS

WORLD OF FENG SHUI OPENS IN THE PHILIPPINES

The world-renowned World of Feng Shui chain of boutiques of Malaysia will soon open its first boutique at the Podium in Ortigas Center. The boutique will be a one-stop shop for Feng Shui followers, providing an extensive array of books and high quality Feng Shui merchandise. It will also provide access to in-shop consultants as well as to Feng Shui masters from across Asia. The franchise partnership was formalized in a signing ceremony held recently in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Present during the franchise signing ceremony are (from left) WOFS.com franchise director Nicque Tan, WOFS.com founder and chair Lilian Too, WOFS Phils president and CEO Marites C.B. Allen and WOFS Phils. chair Nicholas Allen.

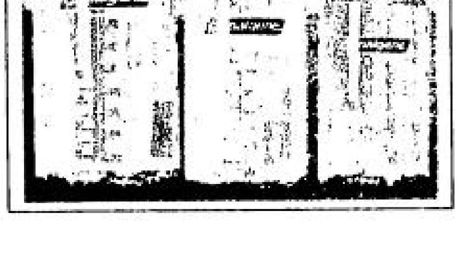
ProductFILES

Nalgene keeps your water worry-free

WHEN it comes to water bottles, the safest bet is the trusted brand Nalgene. Nalgene bottles are guaranteed to be leakproof, durable and dependable because they're made with plastic that does not retain tastes, odors, and stains. You can be sure your drink stays inside the bottle all the time. Your things will stay dry and you need not worry about unexpected mishaps. And because Nalgene bottles are made with an extremely impact-resistant plastic, accidentally dropping your Nalgene bottle is no problem at all. It won't break or crack unlike other water bottles available in the market today.

You're also assured that all materials used in Nalgene products have been studied, tested and safely used for decades in products used for human consumption. Your water will not taste like anything but water and you're guaranteed that there will be no unwanted chemicals in your drink.

It pays a lot to invest in quality products like Nalgene which can give you the assurance you need. Nalgene products are available in all Bratpack outlets nationwide. Check out their stores in Robinsons Galleria, Robinsons Place Manila, Robinsons Iloilo, SM City Manila, SM Southmall, SM North Edsa, SM Pampanga, SM City Davao, and SM Cagayan.



SGETECH, INC.
SENTS
SGETECH, Inc. [Phils.]
DEVY GERONIMO
ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS
WINNING SCHOOL - ACSAT - BALIUAG BULACAN
SGETECH, Inc. [Phils.]
WINNING SCHOOL - ACSAT - BALIUAG BULACAN
FIFTY THOUSAND PESOS
WINNING SCHOOL - ACSAT - BALIUAG BULACAN

ACSAT SCORES TRIPLE WIN IN SOFTWARE TILT

The Asian College of Science & Technology (Acsat) was named Grand Champion and 4th and 5th Runner-Up at the 2nd Annual SGETech Software Cup held last June 26 at the Edsa Shangrila Hotel. The annual software competition was participated in by 18 big schools and universities in and around Metro Manila. For her winning entry, 'Management Supply Chain System,' Devy Geronimo of Acsat Baliuag was awarded P50,000. Acsat bagged three of the six prizes that night. Shown are (from left): Devy Geronimo (3rd from left); engineer Emmanuel Sia; Nomilyn Q. Simon; Lyn Mendoza; and Emiline G. Sunga.

DCTI
Diliman Computer Technology Institute

MTCA, DCTI OFFER MEDICAL TRANSCRIPTION COURSE

MTC Academy (MTCA) president Eugenio Gonzalez (third from left) stresses during a press briefing held recently that given the severe global and local shortage of medical transcriptionists, extensive opportunities abound for full-time and part-time medical practitioners to establish a profitable and stable career. With him are his franchise partners from Diliman Computer Technology Institute (DCTI) in Quezon City. MTCA and DCTI have forged a partnership for the introduction of Medical Transcription as a course in DCTI's curriculum. The school opens for registration and is accepting students for the first batch. Classes begin on Sept. 27. From left: MTCA general manager Trina Ycasiano, Diliman Educational Corporation (DEC) VP Althea dela Rama, MTCA president Gonzalez, DEC president Emalina Flores, DCTI-MTCA school administrator Perry Coseteng and MTCA franchise sales manager Herbert Betz.

2004 International Spirit at Work honors Plantersbank

THE 2004 International Spirit at Work Awards announced that Planters Development Bank (Plantersbank) is one of ten organizations from around the world that will be honored at the Spirit in Business conference in Zurich, Switzerland on October 1st. The organizations selected for the honors include one each from India and Australia and seven headquartered in the United States.

Plantersbank, the largest private development bank known for its small and medium enterprise (SME) -focused approach, earned recognition as a pioneer in a growing trend of highly successful organizations explicitly nurturing spirituality among employees. Plantersbank is committed to serving customers through the "Whole Heart and Mind (WHAM) Way," and provides quarterly creative gatherings, personal growth seminars, spiritual retreats and onsite religious services.

Sharing honors with Planters Development Bank at the International Spirit at Work Awards in Switzerland are: Australia and New Zealand Banking Group Limited (Melbourne, Australia), Acension Health (Missouri, USA), Centura Health (Colorado, USA), Excel Industries (Mumbai, India), Hearthstone Homes (Nebraska , USA), PeaceHealth (Washington, USA), Phenomex (California, USA with offices in UK, Germany, New Zealand and Australia), Saint Francis Health Center (Kansas, USA) and Saint Luke's Episcopal Health System (Texas, USA).

"The ten 2004 Award honorees represent 150,000 employees in multiple industries in offices all over the world," according to Cindy Wigglesworth, Chairperson of the International Spirit at the Work Award Selection Committee in Houston, Texas. "The award honors the recipients for their spiritual policies, programs or practices that explicitly nurture spirituality in their organizations. Their leadership strives to engage the gifts of their employees. Their cultures strive for integrity, discipline, creativity, and effective growth. They honor all religious traditions. This dedication to wholeness and health creates a financially sound and dynamic organization."

The International Spirit at Work Award was inspired by late visionary futurist Willis Harman, PhD (1919-1997). Four groups "co-own" and "co-organize" the Award: The Association for Spirit at Work (www.spiritatwork.org); the Spirit in Business Institute (www.spiritbusiness.org); The World Business Academy (www.worldbusiness.org) and the European Baha'l Business Forum (www.eddf.org).

PRUDENTIALIFE, GAWAD KALINGA TO BUILD HOMES FOR BASECO

Prudentialife and Gawad Kalinga (GK) recently signed a Memorandum of Agreement to build 'Prudentialife Village' in Baseco, Tondo, Manila to benefit 50 families. Prudentialife is the first preneed company to tie-up with GK in providing decent housing for the poorest of the poor. To realize this project, Prudentialife Foundation Inc launched Gold (Gift of Life Drive) as a campaign vehicle to generate funds for its various charities. Photo shows (seated from left): GK board member Joe Tale; GK executive director Tony Meloto; Prudentialife president Jose Alberto Alba and Prudentialife Foundation Inc assistant vice president Angelita Mercado; (standing from left) Adrian Chong; GK coordinator RJ Serra and Prudentialife first vice president Melissa Lopez.

Toyota Reflections on Revo

TOYOTA Motor Philippines Corporation will kick off a photo caravan nationwide tour of the country's best selling vehicle, the Revo. The tour will display the contributions of the hundred Revo owners who have submitted their photos for the Revo Reflections photo competition. The competition was launched by TMP in search for the photo that would best present the Revo's rich contributions to the Filipino lifestyle.

For the last thirteen years, the Tamaraw FX Revo has been touching Filipino lives in different ways. This was what Toyota has proven when they launched the Revo Reflections photo contest last July 19. In less than two months, hundreds of entries were submitted and each has a story to tell, illustrating how this wonder vehicle created a name with a meaning of its own for the common people.

The judging of the photo contest was held last Sept. 2, at the Toyota Marketing Head Quarters in Makati. Out of all the entries, eight winners were chosen to receive huge cash prizes.

The awarding of the winners was held last Sept. 10, at the Cortes de las Palmas of the Alabang Town Center. The five consolation prize winners of P10,000 each are: Lemuel Arrogante with "Fly High" from Subangdaku, Mandaue; Samuel De Leon with "After a Day's Work" from Luzon Ave., Quezon City; Normito Alvarez with "Rev Up Your Life" from Las Piñas City; Hanson Ong with "Fishing Buddies" from New Manila, Quezon City; and Jesse Narrazo with "Wedded Bliss" from Bacolod City.

The third prizewinner of P50,000 is an entry entitled "Balikbayan" from Reynaldo Mondez from Taguig, Metro Manila. "Balikbayan" illustrates the Revo as an OFW's prized possession, together with a family waiting for him to finally come home.

The second prizewinner of P75,000 is from Hanson Ong of New Manila, Quezon City. His winning entry, "Step by Step" depicts the Revo as the ultimate family vehicle. The photo portrays the Revo taking part in a family's most priceless achievements.

The deserving grand prizewinner of P100,000 is a native of Bacolod City. Joaquin Ruste's "Dama: Street Scene," perfectly captures the Tamaraw FX Revo's proud heritage and contribution to the Philippines. It is a simple yet powerfully emotional illustration of a group of "FX-Taxi" drivers taking a break with a game of Dama, while waiting for passengers. Indeed, the Tamaraw FX became a staple vehicle for ordinary commuters.

Join Toyota in paying tribute to this wonder vehicle. Visit the Revo Museo, a gallery of the winning photos and other entries to be displayed in a roving tour at all Toyota Metro Manila and provincial dealers from September to October, and all SM malls nationwide from October to December.

SITIO LUCIA HOLDS EFFECTIVE SUPERVISORY AND LEADERSHIP SKILLS TRAINING

Sitio Lucia garden resort-hotel-training center recently had its management team and frontliners undergo an intensive training on Effective Supervisory and Leadership Skills to improve the effectiveness of the team in providing superior relations to its patrons and guests. Shown together with international trainer Ricardo de Vera (seated, center) are Joe Manebo, general manager (seated, beside de Vera) and Nanette Manebo, sales director (with glasses, seated beside de Vera). Sitio Lucia is located at Sta. Maria Bulacan, just 30 minutes away from the Bocaue Expressway exit.

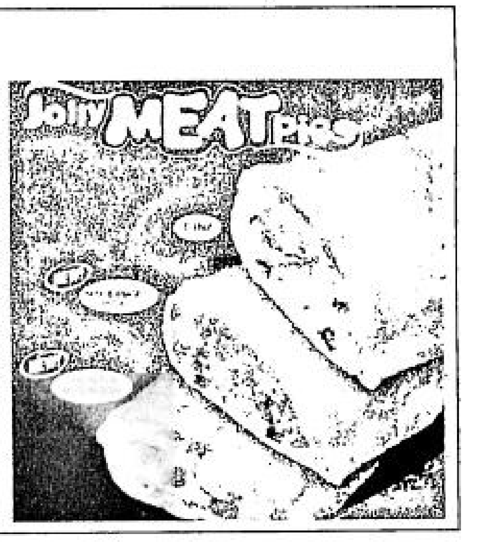
1528 SMART LAUNCH IN HONG KONG

Hong Kong and OFWs together with the Smart and PLDT global teams can barely contain their excitement in meeting Pinoy celebrities at the launch of the new 1528 Smart Launch in Hong Kong. 1528 Smart is the product of a 3-way partnership between PLDT wireless subsidiary Smart, its consumer international arm PLDT Global and Hong Kong CSL Ltd. It is a new wireless service that gives OFWs a Smart cellphone in Hong Kong with roaming-free access to other innovations such as Smart Padala, Smart Load, Smart PasaLoad and other selected services as well as the most reasonable calling and texting rates to the Philippines.

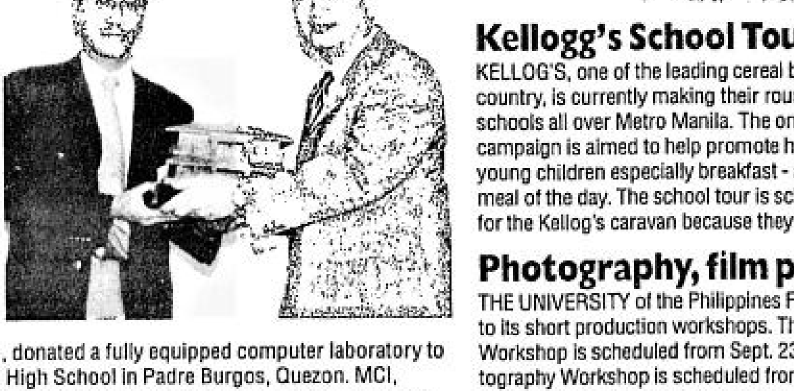
ProductFILES

Jollibee's new meat pies

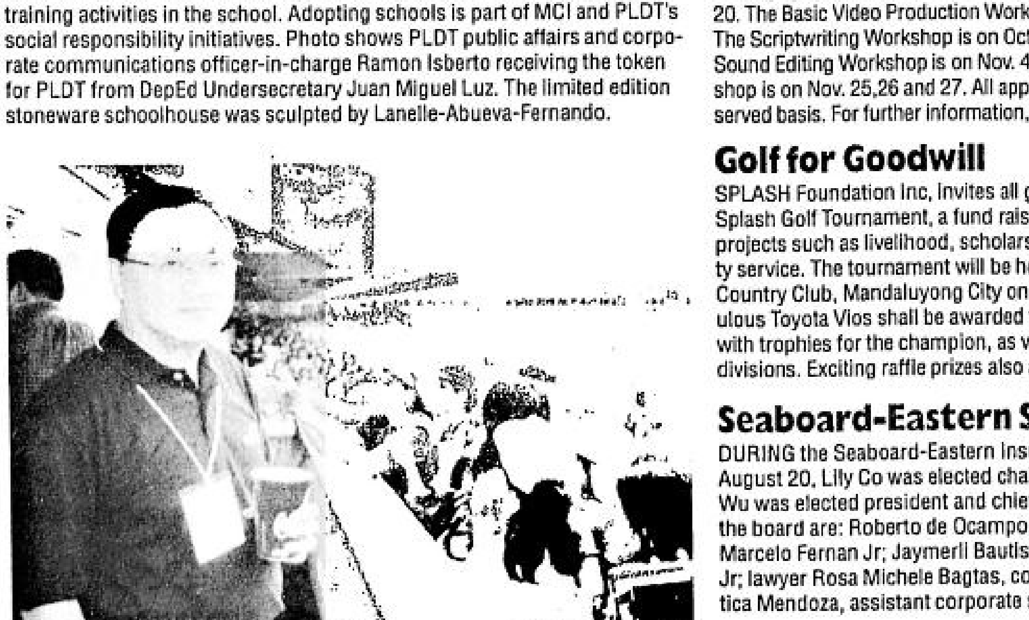
JOLLIBEE, takes the pie experience to the next level. Try the new Jolly Meat Pies. Your favorite pie crust can now be enjoyed with a choice selection of savory fillings that's bursting with meaty flavor in every bite. First there was Tuna Pie, and now there are two new meaty reasons to enjoy Jollibee's very own recipe of golden brown and crunchy pies – Chicken Pie and Beef Pie. They're delicious at a pocket-friendly price of only P17 per piece, you get more value for your hard-earned peso. Try the Jolly Meat Pies today and discover this exciting new treat that's delectably irresistible.



DEPED CITES PLDT



The Department of Education (DepEd) recently gave the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co (PLDT) a limited edition stoneware schoolhouse in appreciation of the telecom firm's contribution to DepEd's Adopt-a-School Program. PLDT, through the Managers' Club Inc (MCI), donated a fully equipped computer laboratory to Kinagunan Ibaba National High School in Padre Burgos, Quezon. MCI, whose members include PLDT executives, also conducted computer skills training activities in the school. Adopting schools is part of MCI and PLDT's social responsibility initiatives. Photo shows PLDT public affairs and corporate communications officer-in-charge Ramon Isberto receiving the token for PLDT from DepEd Undersecretary Juan Miguel Luz. The limited edition stoneware schoolhouse was sculpted by Lanelle-Abueva-Fernando.



THE ORIGINAL OCW

Manuel Pangilinan, chair of PLDT and Smart: 'The PLDT group is committed to thinking ahead.' 1528 smart had its grand launch on Aug. 29 at the Hong Kong Stadium, with an estimated 20,000 OFWs in attendance. 1528 Smart is the product of a 3-way partnership between PLDT wireless subsidiary Smart, its consumer international arm PLDT Global and Hong Kong CSL Ltd. It is a new wireless service that gives OFWs a Smart cellphone in Hong Kong with roaming-free access to other innovations such as Smart Padala, Smart Load, Smart PasaLoad and other selected services as well as the most reasonable calling and texting rates to the Philippines.

Bits Clips

Kellogg's School Tour

KELLOG'S, one of the leading cereal brands in the country, is currently making their rounds of select schools all over Metro Manila. The on-going school tour campaign is aimed to help promote healthy eating amongst young children especially breakfast - as the most important meal of the day. The school tour is scheduled to run till October. So watch out for the Kellog's caravan because they could be visiting your child's school soon.

Photography, film production workshops

THE UNIVERSITY of the Philippines Film Institute is now accepting applications to its short production workshops. The second section of the Basic Photography Workshop is scheduled from Sept. 23, 24 and 25. The Advanced Lighting Photography Workshop is scheduled from Oct. 4,5,6,7,8 and 9. The Documentary Photography and Digital Printing Workshop is from Nov. 11,12,13/18,19 and 20. The Basic Video Production Workshop is from Nov. 4,5,6, /12,13 and 14. The Scriptwriting Workshop is on October 22,23 / 25,26,27 and 29. The Digital Sound Editing Workshop is on Nov. 4,5 and 6. The Non-Linear Editing Workshop is on Nov. 25,26 and 27. All applications are accepted on a first-come-first-served basis. For further information, call 925-0286, 926-3640 or fax 926-2722.

Golf for Goodwill

SPLASH Foundation Inc, invites all golf enthusiasts to join the 2nd Open Splash Golf Tournament, a fund raising activity for its various humanitarian projects such as livelihood, scholarships, child hospitalization and community service. The tournament will be held at the West Course of Wack-Wack Country Club, Mandaluyong City on Sept. 23. Tee off time is 8 to 9 a.m. A fabulous Toyota Vios shall be awarded to the lucky hole-in-one winner together with trophies for the champion, as well as as runners-up of Class A, B and C divisions. Exciting raffle prizes also await participating players.

Seaboard-Eastern Stockholders' Meeting

DURING the Seaboard-Eastern Insurance Co Inc Stockholders' Meeting last August 20, Lily Co was elected chair of the board of directors, while Joli Co Wu was elected president and chief executive officer. The other members of the board are: Roberto de Ocampo, vice chair; lawyer Raoul Angangco; Marcelo Fernan Jr; Jaymerll Bautista; Rita Tan; Jennifer Martin; Jose Banzon Jr; lawyer Rosa Michele Bagtas, corporate secretary; and lawyer Rosa Mystica Mendoza, assistant corporate secretary.

LILY Co
Chair

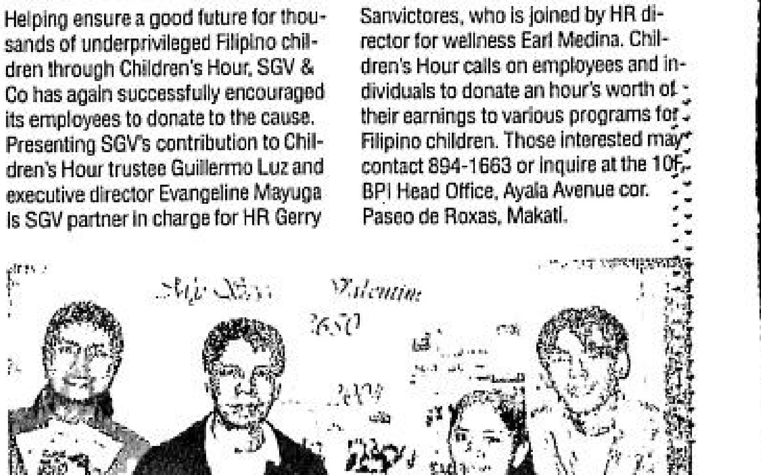
ROBERTO de Ocampo
Vice chair

Joli Co Wu
President and CEO

SGV & Co
Welcome

SGV DONATES TO CHILDREN'S HOUR

Helping ensure a good future for thousands of underprivileged Filipino children through Children's Hour, SGV & Co has again successfully encouraged its employees to donate to the cause. Presenting SGV's contribution to Children's Hour trustee Guillermo Luz and executive director Evangeline Mayuga is SGV partner in charge for HR Gerry Sanvictores, who is joined by HR director for wellness Earl Medina. Children's Hour calls on employees and individuals to donate an hour's worth of their earnings to various programs for Filipino children. Those interested may contact 894-1663 or inquire at the 10F, BPI Head Office, Ayala Avenue cor. Paseo de Roxas, Makati.



MY SPECIAL VALENTINE DRAW

DTI director Arnaldo del Rosario (center) gladly poses with Malou Medina, Anna Ramos and Lance Diomampo of Bookware Publishing Corp during the monthly draw for the 'Nokia 3650 Raffle Promo' held at the company's offices in Pasig City. For the readers of My Special Valentine and MSV Classics Illustrated pocketbooks, its lucky winner is Marie Cris Pamor of Novaliches, Quezon City. The grand draw is going to be held this September where a cellphone with a built-in camera is at stake. For inquiries, call 631-8894.

BUSINESS

Gov't urged to expand VAT coverage

By Michelle V. Remo

THE SENATE has expressed reluctance to pass the Arroyo administration's proposal to increase the value-added tax rate to 12 percent, saying it could be wiser for the government to increase VAT collection by simply expanding its coverage, such as by lifting the exemption of lawyers and doctors.

During yesterday's Senate hearing on the economic impact of the administration's proposed revenue measures, legislators questioned the propriety of compelling taxpayers to pay a higher VAT rate when loopholes of the current tax system were causing huge revenue losses for the government.

"I don't see the rationale behind the exemption of lawyers and doctors from VAT, when everybody else, including farmers, are paying the tax," Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr. said during the hearing, which was organized by the Senate committee on economic affairs.

Sen. Manuel Roxas II, committee chair, proposed that the Department of Finance (DOF) review the Arroyo administration's proposal to increase the VAT rate from 10 to 12 percent by taking into consideration alternatives like shortening the list of VAT exemptions and improving efficiency in VAT collection.

Roxas said the government may not need to burden existing taxpayers with a higher VAT rate if it would simply collect the same tax from lawyers and doctors, who are perceived to earn higher income than other VAT-paying professionals.

The legislator also asked the DOF to find ways to improve VAT collection, noting the substantial amount of VAT leakages. Plugging the tax leaks may bring in much more revenue for the government than simply raising the tax rate, Roxas said.

Finance Undersecretary Nieves Osorio, who represented the DOF during the hearing, admitted that the government was losing huge revenue due to VAT leakages. She disclosed that the government lost P144 billion from VAT leakages in 2003 alone. The government collected only P135 billion in VAT last year, compared with the P279 billion it was expecting. This meant that the government suffered from a 52-percent gap between VAT collectibles and actual VAT collection.

The DOF estimated that the 2-percentage point increase in the VAT rate would generate an additional P20 billion in annual revenue for the government. The amount is much smaller than the P144 billion in VAT leakages last year.

Osorio said the government's economic team, which is advocating for the legislation of the Arroyo administration's revenue measures, was open to reviewing them. The DOF and the Bureau of Internal Revenue are pushing for a refinement of the country's VAT system, saying that too many exemptions were defeating the purpose of the tax.

The BIR earlier said it was proposing that a bill reducing the number of VAT exemptions stated under the National Internal Revenue Code be passed. Under the law, products and services exempted from VAT included agricultural, marine and forest products in their original state; fertilizers and seedlings; petroleum products and their raw materials, and medical and agricultural services, among others.

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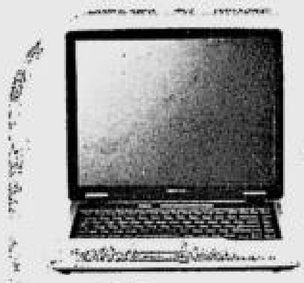

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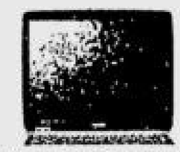

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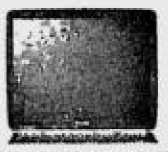

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Meralco says returns not enough

By Abigail L. Ho

DESPITE doing some serious spending to make its service more efficient, Lopez-led Manila Electric Co. is still not getting good enough returns, as distribution charges account for only a very small part of power users' monthly bills.

Breaking down the main component's of a Meralco billing statement, distribution charges account for 19 percent of the total amount that customers have to pay each month.

Eating up the largest share of the bill are generation charges, which Meralco remits to National Power Corp. and independent power producers First Gas Power Corp. and Quezon Power Philippines Ltd., at 62 percent.

Transmission charges, which go to the National Transmission Corp., have a 17-percent share of the pie.

Compared with other countries, the share of distribution charges in total monthly bills in the Philippines is quite small, said Meralco utility economics policy research head Lawrence Fernandez, citing data from the World Energy Council and various other sources.

In Norway, for example, distribution charges account for 47 percent of customers' monthly bills. Matching the Philippines' 19-percent distribution charge share are the United States and Israel.

"Even if we lower outages, even if we operate more efficiently, we still don't get the corresponding returns," Fernandez said.

According to his presentation to industry stakeholders, Meralco's rates were second to those of Japanese power distributors and even a bit higher than rates charged by its Singaporean counterparts.

However, he said wholesale power rates here, combining amounts charged by Napocor and Transco, were already higher than retail rates offered by other Asian distribution utilities.

Last day for NSC buyer to make ₱1-B payment

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

CREDITORS of National Steel Corp. (NSC) have given India's Global Infrastructure Holdings Ltd. until today to complete its P1-billion down payment for the acquisition of the steel firm's plant assets.

Banking sources confirmed that Global has until this afternoon to complete its initial payment or the deal is off.

The Indian firm is working out funding for the remaining P700 million after making an initial deposit of $6 million or roughly more than P300 million to NSC last week, company liquidator Danilo Concepcion said.

Global is said to be securing loans from its banks in Australia and New Zealand for the initial deposit.

The asset purchase agreement, which was signed last Sept. 10, gave Global seven working days to settle the down payment. This was extended until today.

The asset purchase agreement covers the transfer of plant assets to the buyer.

The completion of the agreement upon Global's payment of P1 billion will pave the way for creditors of NSC and Global to proceed with an omnibus agreement that outlines the terms of payment of the remaining P12.25 billion out of the total P13.25-billion purchase price. The remaining amount will be paid over a period of eight years.

NSC was forced to close its plant in 1999 after failing to pay debts totaling P16 billion. Asia's oldest steel company succumbed to pressures from the influx of cheap imports from Russia and South Africa. The shutdown of the plant, which used to produce 1.5 million metric tons of steel, left some 4,000 workers jobless. The rehabilitation of NSC is expected to generate 500 jobs and P25 billion in annual revenue.

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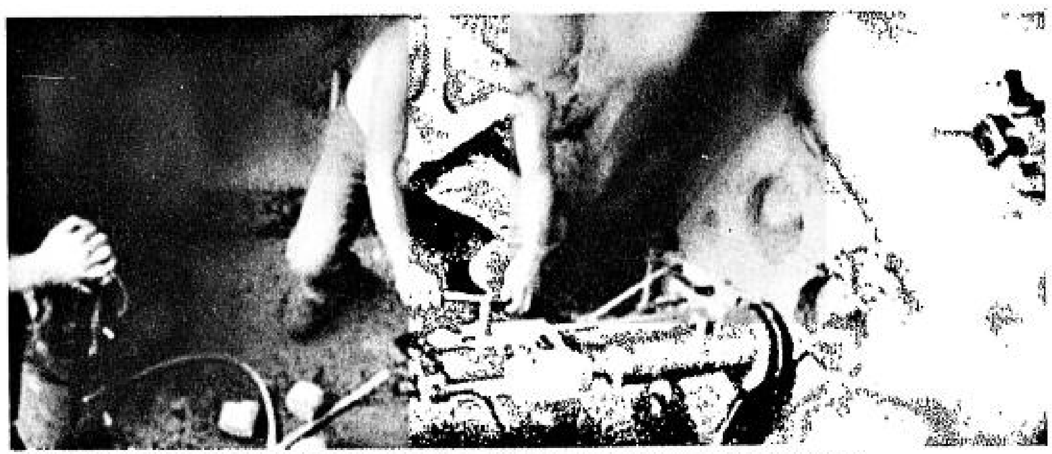
Editor Cesar D. Mangawang

Speed, power tools fast-track RP construction

By Tessa R. Salazar


TECHNOLOGY provides precision and speed—main demands of modern construction.

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Tools have been with humankind ever since the species could use its hands to grasp objects. And as we developed tools, so did the pace and quality of our workmanship.

Power tools

The Industrial Revolution boosted the manufacture of construction tools, and further enhanced their performance with the introduction of electricity and advances in metallurgy. The first "power tools" were born in the early days of this era. For instance, in the 1930s the first electric rotary hammer was developed.

Today, high-technology tools are continuously being developed in the construction industry. Even a simple gadget such as an angle grinder is refined by technology to grind or cut discs to near perfection. Diamond wheel cutters pierce through the toughest steel like butter.

From simple hammers and saws, we now see a hodgepodge of power tools fit for specific tasks. Have you seen a circular saw, an all-purpose saw, a "power" paint stirrer, a 500-watt screwdriver, a high-tech glue gun, hot air gun, spray gun, orbital sander, belter sander, or a drill stand? All these put together cut construction time by half yet improve construction quality and precision.

Powered by electricity, these tools, however, are cordless. Its users enjoy the benefit of having an energy source become part of the machine. A complete system of these tools allows operations independent of the main power source. For instance, a 9.6V or 12V battery pack can be used to drive lightweight, handy screwdrivers or impact drill/drivers. 14.4V and 24V battery packs can be used to drive planers, angle grinders, and saws, Rotary or demolition hammers and compound miter saws, for instance, can now be powered by a 24V battery pack.

German toolmaker

In the forefront of power tools development is Bosch. This 75-year-old German toolmaker has had its products distributed across 150 countries, from Angola to Zimbabwe. Bosch's research and development objectives are realized in the speedy and precise construction projects its power tools help complete.

Surprisingly, though, Bosch's entry into the world of power tools began not in the construction industry, but inside the barbershop. It began by manufacturing the first Forfex—an electric hair-clipping machine that had its motor built into the handle (it took the external motor and put it inside the clipper) in 1928. Four years later, it developed the Bosch Hammer, and soon afterwards became synonymous with tools for working with stone.

Distribution channels

Now claiming to be the top choice of construction companies which are into serious investments and face tight deadlines, Bosch has close to 300 distribution channels nationwide: 200 in Luzon, 50 in the Visayas and the rest in Mindanao. This is expected to increase by 20 percent in 2005.

"More popular in the construction industry in the Philippines is the Bosch mini grinder for cutting steel or for smoothing out or for welding," said Christian Lukas, president and director of Robert Bosch Inc.

Lukas also said Bosch's popularity extends beyond the construction industry. "Our tools are used not just in the construction industry, but also for a lot of industrial applications. We supply tools even for furniture companies," he added.

How important is the Philippines for Bosch? Lukas said the Philippine market is one of the best growing, considering the size of the country. "It's a developing market within Asia and the Asean. It's an important market."

The slight recovery shown by the local real estate and construction industry has been credited to the stronger demand for power tools among construction companies in the first half of 2004, said Bosch's Martin Valenzuela, power tools marketing services manager.

Smaller hands

And if you haven't noticed yet, Bosch power tools in Asia are slightly different from its Western counterparts. "We now listen to what different markets need. We develop according to the needs of the market. For example, the size of the power tools slightly differs from Asian and European models, with regard to weight and size," said Lukas.

Bosch manufacturing plants may now be found elsewhere, but the German tradition and workmanship is still evident. Many Bosch tools, though still engineered in Germany, are manufactured in plants such as those found in Hangzhou, China and in Penang, Malaysia.

The new 35,000-square-meter Hangzhou power tools manufacturing plant is also the biggest in Asia and is said to be the most advanced power tool plant in the world. It employs 800 workers spread out over three major assembly houses called Skil, Bosch Power Tools and Bosch Power Tools Accessories.

There have been new innovations made specifically for the Asian market.

Next year, Bosch Hangzhou will satisfy up to 6 million units of the world's demand for power tools, as well as produce 20 million high-quality accessories.

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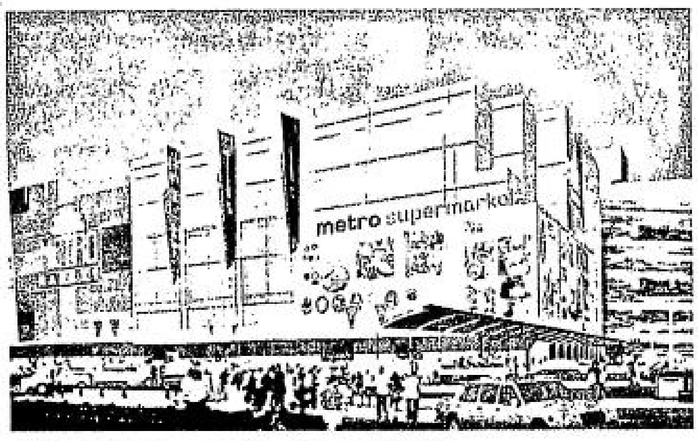

ARCHITECT'S perspective of Metro Market

Metro Gaisano to provide Metro Manila shoppers different kind of experience

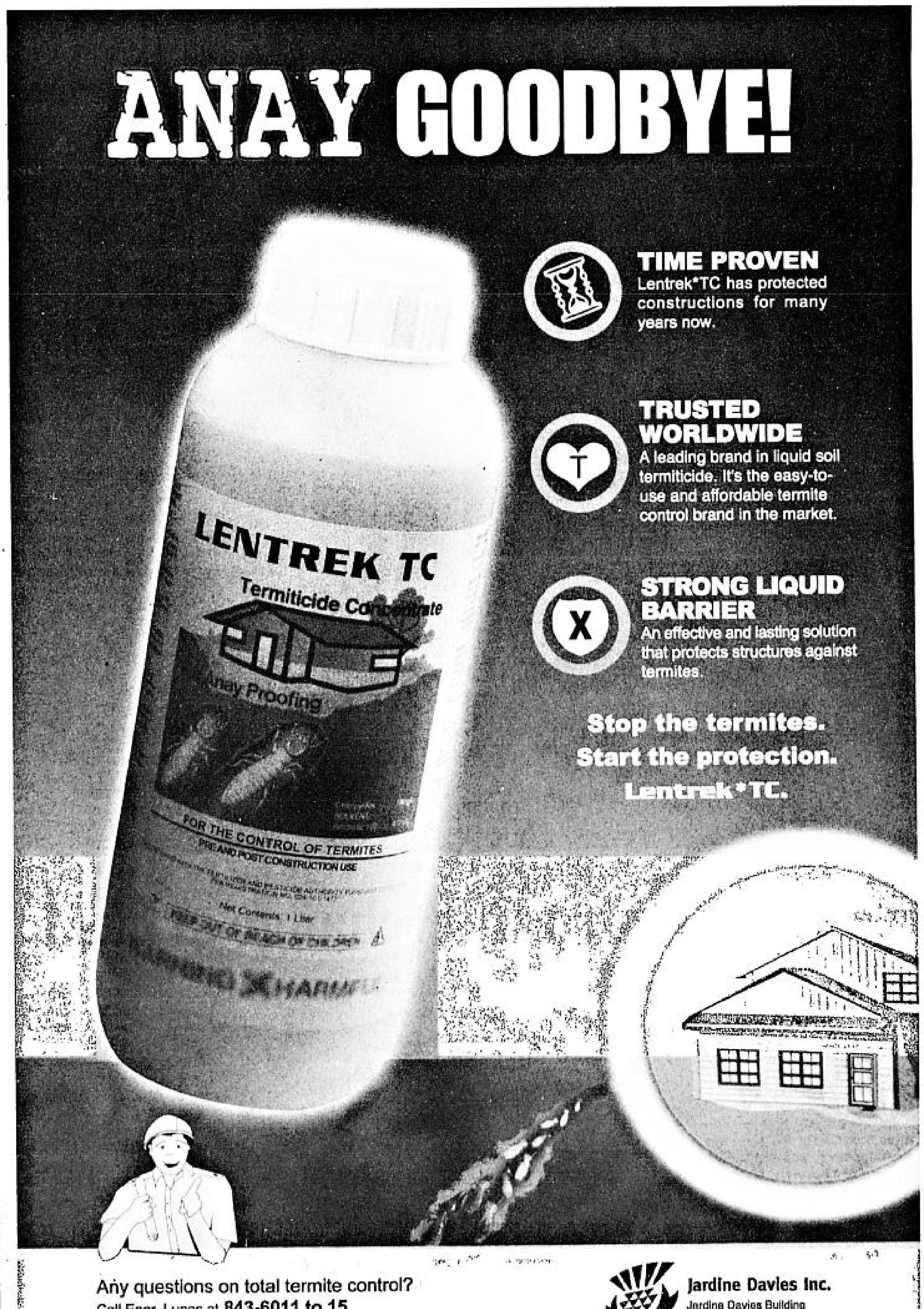
THE CHAIN of Metro Gaisano Department Stores under the Vicsal Development Corp. has grown through the years with hard work and determination. The company's vision of competing under world-class standards will soon come into fruition.

Starting out in November 1982 with a two-story building on Cebu's oldest and busiest street, Metro Colon is now considered a stronghold, catering to the Cebuano masses. The second Metro store, Super Metro Mandaue, opened in September 1994 to serve the growing populace of the area, then Metro Ayala which targets the middle and upscale markets followed suit by November of the same year.

With opportunity beckoning in Luzon, Metro stores opened in Legazpi and Lucena cities in October 2001 and July 2003, respectively.

Now, Metro Gaisano has finally taken its first step toward opening its doors and showing Cebuano hospitality to the Metro Manila customers. The management and staff of the company are preparing head on to meet the demands and expectations of its new market. In partnership with Ayala Market! Market! Mall, they are confident that they will be able to bring a different shopping experience to our customers.

GROUNDBREAKING
Residential and commercial development Forest Parkhomes Angeles City, a joint-venture project between Robinsons Homes Inc. and Don Pepe Henson Enterprises Inc., was formally launched in Barangay Pampang, Angeles City. Leading the groundbreaking ceremony are, from left, DPHEI director Josefina Henson, Rep. Francis Neomuceno, Barangay Pampang chair Carlos dela Cruz, Robinsons Homes Inc. SVP and GM Marilu Alferez and Angeles City Vice Mayor Ricardo Zalamea.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FOREST FARMS, THE WOODLANDS OF ANGONO

Landscapes of man's most fertile imagination

MIRANDA heads the Angono Ateliers Group

LIVING in the city outskirts has never been so tempting. The rapid and intensive urbanization of the northern metropolis has countless families migrating toward east.

All the bad aspects of city life come far less, and its advantages, come far more in those areas. The list includes less traffic, less congestion, less pollution, more breathable space, more breathable air, cooler climate—when summed up, really amounts to the most idyllic lifestyle one can dream of these days.

Such an idyllic lifestyle amounts to Forest Farms and The Woodlands of Angono, Filinvest Land Inc.'s latest additions to its Filinvest East County (FEC) township projects, which includes Mission Hills in Antipolo and Highlands Pointe in Taytay.

Forest Farms and The Woodlands is a partnership between the giant real estate developer and one of Rizal province's most eminent clans, the Santos-Narciso family. The two covers a total land area of approximately 39.2 hectares.

Forest Farms

Most real estate companies these days banner lush vegetation as one of their best features. Forest Farms certainly has a lot of that, in fact far more than any other development has. Pieces of property here are designed for farming so the existing green in the raw land that it is now will be maintained through the actual development so the air here will be as fresh as it has always been. Thickly forested and with majestic century-old balete and acacia trees, lots will have their share of exquisite foliages, hardly a feature any other development can claim.

Future owners are expected to engage in their own models of domestic farming as pieces of property here range from 750 to 890 square meters. The area is approximately 200 meters above sea level so the temperature is always cool and makes it a perfect substitute for Tagaytay or Baguio.

Its rolling terrain and steeply inclined areas offer panoramic views of the Laguna Lake, the Makati and Ortigas Skyline and even the rugged Sierra Madre Mountains. Filinvest is keen on maintaining the site's natural terrain so that all property owners will not be deprived of this view.

The Woodlands of Angono

As the "first integrated master-planned residential resort development in the East that is unified under a mountain retreat and nature theme," The Woodlands of Angono will be dedicated primarily to residences packaged for the upper middle-income market. Ideal for upstart families, lot sizes range from 180 to 250 sq m. It has venues for health, well-being, relaxation and recreation as well as areas that nurture culture and the arts.

This community is directly linked to the Forest Farms so both communities will enjoy the best each has to offer.

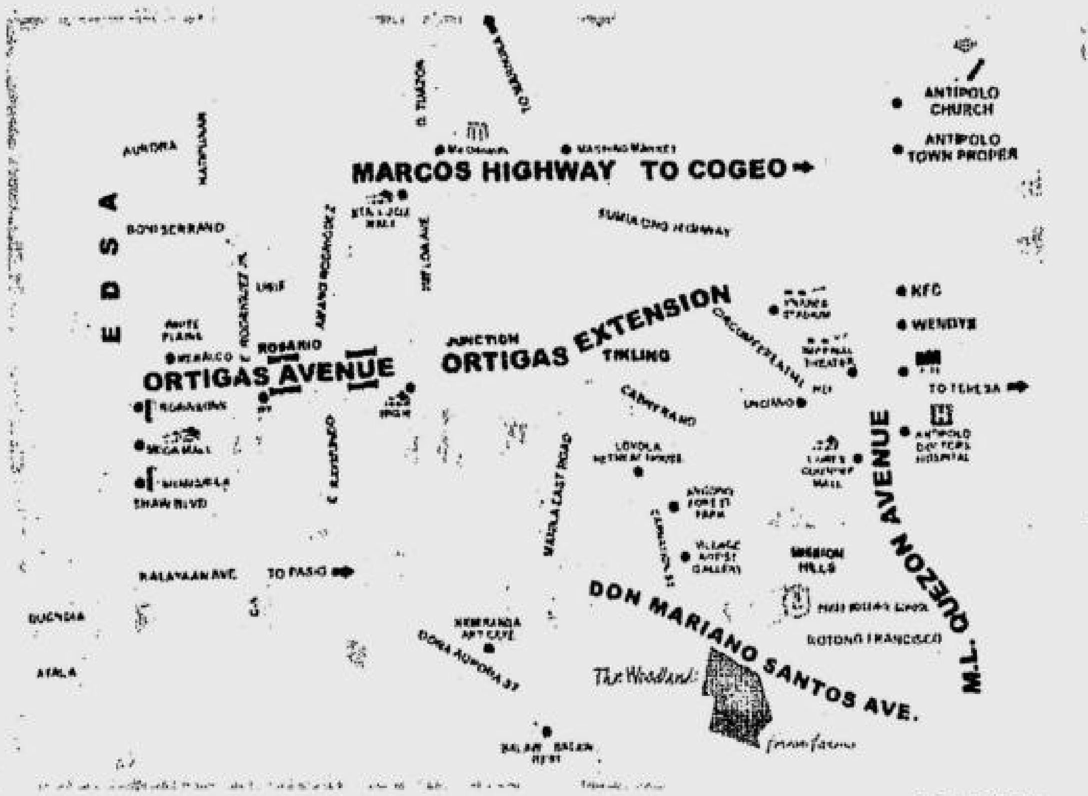
Clubhouseless communities

Filinvest is quick to point out that the expansive areas of the two communities, are after all a mountain retreat and leisure park in itself. "We want to bring the two communities closer to each other," says Tristaniel Las Marias, project group head. Hence amenities are spread throughout linking clusters together as well as encouraging more healthy and .fun outdoor activities such as rock climbing, kayaking and fishing.

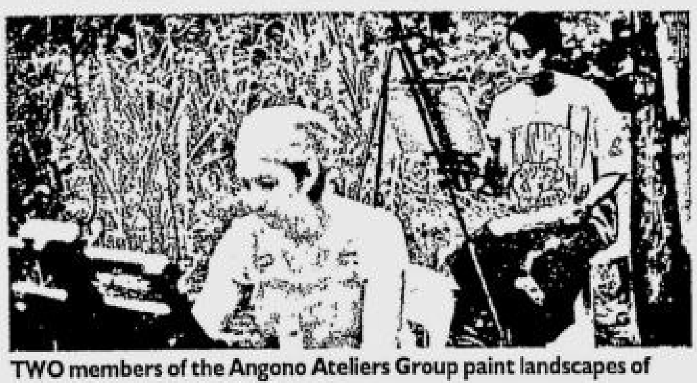
Long leisurely walks are encouraged through the development's interconnected walkways. These pedestrian-friendly and trellised walkways allow residents to explore the scenic views while navigating the different clusters.

"No enclosed structures for these communities," says business development officer Maria Angela Zalazar. "Sense tells us that there is a need to create venues that build social interrelationships among residents in order for them to explore and gain a better appreciation of the life they will have here."

Kids will definitely get a thrill hanging out at The Kids' Grove, which features a campsite with teepees and hanging bridges. Residents will enjoy kayaking or fishing at The Picnic Pavilion and Art's Venue's central lagoon. While the exhilarating views adds to the sensory outdoor experience for-painting, sculpting or sketching! Plus complete access to the badminton, swimming, basketball and tennis facilities at the neighboring Mission Hills community will definitely keep a resident's adventurous side alive!



PROJECT site


TWO members of the Angono Ateliers Group paint landscapes of Forest Farms and The Woodlands.

Arts venue

The choice to have an arts' venue was forthcoming and truly apt. Angono, Rizal after all, is a cradle of the arts, having been home to National Artist Botong Francisco and some the country's thriving artist groups. One of which is ,the oldest surviving arts group in the province, the Angono Ateliers Group, headed by Nemi Miranda (Nemiranda, to art patrons and other artists). For the launch of these two communities, Filinvest Land commissioned the group to paint 10 pieces featuring the landscapes of Forest Farms and The Woodlands.

The Angono Ateliers' collection features the site's verdant landscapes, a homage to what Nemiranda calls "the most beautiful place in Angono."

Themed development

Zalazar says "Stylized Mountain Homes" will be the defining architectural theme, appropriate for a mountain retreat, or Northern American-inspired architecture that conforms to the Philippine setting.

Cluster planning will be followed to create neighborhood enclaves that are bordered by linear tree and flower parks. Filinvest is keen on doing extensive landscaping to enhance the natural scenery as well as encourage healthy activities like long walks, family hikes and biking among its future property owners.

If life up there at The Woodlands and Forest Farms mean waking up to morning sunrays cutting through foliages, watching closely the dewdrops, breathing freely, looking forward to the calm allowed by distances, postcard promises come true, after all.

RAINFOREST PARK

A real perk for Pasigueños

IT was a cause for great relief and joy for Pasigueños when a well-thought-of leisure, recreational and educational park emerged in the heart of their city.

Aptly called the Pasig Rainforest Park, it is a breathing center in the city's landscape with a millennial philosophy of combining recreation and sports with environmental features both for education as well as urban relaxation.

Clear recognition

The Rainforest Park rose amid the backdrop of the city's efforts under Mayor Vicente Eusebio to redefine a city that answers to the needs of its people not only in structural improvements but also in strengthening fibers of social and community living.

THE EUSEBIO Fitness Center

More concretely put, the park's construction, maintenance, management and continuous enhancement show the city's clear recognition of the vital importance of healthful and quality urban conditions of living.

The eight-hectare Pasig Rainforest Park is located in Barangay Maybunga, just a five-minute drive from Ortigas Avenue. It houses a multipurpose center and sports facilities, such as swimming pool, sports oval and gym. The park also boasts of a youth training center that is used as a venue for various youth activities like conferences, trainings and seminars. Other park features include the aviary, mini zoo, amphitheater, children's playground, senior citizen's park, butterfly pavilion, Japanese garden, and fishponds.

AMPHITHEATER

Planting activities

The face-lifting operation of the park required the planting of additional trees and plants. Recognizing the significance of the project, private organizations joined in the development effort.

Groups like the Lions Club, President Kennedy Foundation, student associations and NGOs have conducted planting activities. There are now mahogany, acacia, mango, santol and mabolo trees planted alongside the lush lawns, bushes and shrubs.

Myriad mix

Pasig now has a myriad mix of commercial and finance centers, with the Philippine Stock Exchange building at the crown, and energized of late by call centers.

While flyovers and overpasses are built, traffic control signals on busy intersections are put in place, and traffic enforcers get needed training on provision of quick solutions to chaos on the streets. There is also work ongoing to clear creeks and dredge the river as part of overall healthful pursuits.

The city government manifests the continuous balancing act of caring for the environment and paving the ground, so to speak, to make room for urban progress.

Since the improvement of the Pasig Rainforest Park, park visits have significantly increased, especially during weekends and the summer season. Families, friends and groups come in droves to enjoy the surroundings and use the facilities. In fact, the park has also become a favorite venue for garden weddings, debuts and other functions—also a good indicator that its purpose of promoting community interaction is being achieved.

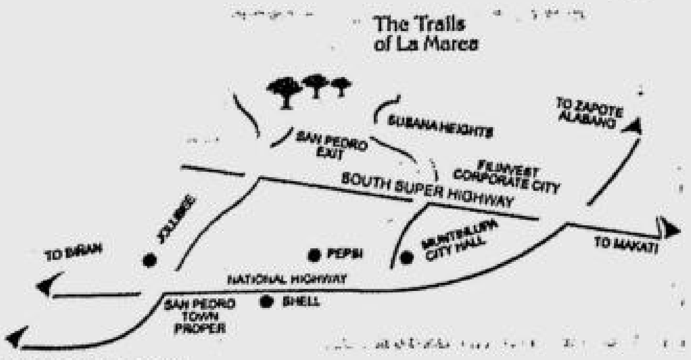
COTTAGES

AVIARY

New San Pedro Interchange at La Marea's doorstep

THE RECENT inauguration of the new San Pedro Interchange on the South Luzon Expressway, located literally on the doorstep of La Marea, makes this suburban haven even more "city-close"—removed yet not remote—by enhancing ease of travel.

La Marea has become even more accessible, with travel time to points north and south much reduced. For example, Alabang is now only mere minutes away.



LATEST Trails map

For young urban achievers

La Marea, a development of Brittany Corp.'s new corporate division, 360° Living, is a welcoming community for young, urban achievers, offering them an ideal environment in which to raise their families. In line with the philosophy of 360° Living, La Marea is premised on the insight that raising children defines residents' priorities, needs and lifestyle. Thus, all planning by 360° Living revolves around the family, with architecture and use of space creating nontraditional ambiance and configurations. Respect for nature is important. The community's homeowners are mostly in their 30s and 40s, low-key and friendly, succeeding as corporate executives or entrepreneurs.

Model homes

Recently at Trails of La Marea, 360° Living inaugurated a model home called Ungiolley (un-joe-lee) as well as a new sales office exclusively for buyers of property in the new phase release.

One of three model homes for Trails, Ungiolley has a floor space of 160 square meters with a unique, multilevel architectural design conforming to the topography. With its cathedral-type front window, Ungiolley is a harmonious interplay of space and height, maximizing roominess while bringing the outside and the inside together.

In line with La Marea's relaxed air, Ungiolley's design generates the feelings of comfort and ease that one gets on visiting a spa. Other new model homes for Trails are the Alexandra with 168 sq m and the Vittoria with 188 sq m of floor space, respectively. Lots range from 180 sq m to 300 sq m.

5-point philosophy

The philosophy of 360° Living has five points:

- **Intelligent use of space**—Proving that "more can be done with less," so each home feels much bigger than it is.
- **Shelter around activity**—Each area of a home is designed with family activities in mind, promoting harmonious interaction.
- **Multifunctionality**—Rooms serve more than one function.
- **Space of one's own**—Homes have individual spaces for every family member.
- **Interior views**—Windows look out onto delightful vistas, with natural light emphasizing the sense of space within.

Other innovations

Trails of La Marea boasts other innovations that improve quality of life, thus putting "creative living" within reach. These include new designs for picket fences, stone cladding to enhance the look and value of homes, garbage bins, termite control and mailboxes.

A new attraction at Trails, the Fern Garden, will have a hanging footbridge, butterflies, mist and a pond, allowing neighbors to discover nature and fellowship together. With its sheltered activity area, it will be a venue for barbecues, badminton and other social activities.

Home and lot packages in the New Phase Release at Trails of La Marea are available from P5 to P7 million, providing unequalled value, especially after the opening of the new San Pedro Interchange. Previews may be arranged by calling 360° Living at 842-1251 or 842-0436.

$10M for Shangri-La Mactan expansion

By Leah C. Salterio

SHANGRI-LA Mactan's owners recommended the renovation for the island resort.

THE SPRAWLING Shangri-La's Mactan Island Resort in Cebu City is spending a whopping US$10 million for its renovation and expansion program, which started early last year and is expected to finish in the first quarter of 2005 with the opening of its 10,000-square meter Spa Village.

The refurbishment started with the upgrading of the guest rooms at the Shang Wing, where Shangri-La's tradition of luxury and style are mirrored in the fusion of western designed-elements and world-class Filipino craftsmanship. Furniture was locally sourced from Cebu's manufacturers, while some of the fabric and fixtures were from Europe and the United States. The rooms are modern in design with nature as the concept, while at the same time infused with a more relaxed resort feel.

Ongoing construction

"Renovation is always a concern because the impression on the level of comfort and tranquility of our guests is compromised," explains Shangri-La Mactan general manager Timothy Wright. "But despite the ongoing construction, the hotel continues to operate with minimal disruption. We still try to make our guests as comfortable as possible, any time of the day."

WRIGHT: Despite the ongoing construction, the hotel continues to operate with minimal disruption.

Inside the rooms are exceptional fixtures meant to give the guests maximum comfort, convenience and satisfaction. The writing and TV desk and chair are all in bamboo laminate. The dressing mirror is framed with laminated coconut twigs. The comfortable woven lounge chair is made of genuine leather and wood. The open weave curtains with earth tone hues are made from straw-hat fabric. The bed has an oversized woven sea-grass headboard, which adds a tropical texture to the ambiance of the room

Green coconut trees accent the light golden-hued bed throw and rust-colored decorative pillows in banana fiber. Goose down duvet is satin stripe and 100 percent cotton-wrapped. Bedside table is made from coconut twig and eucalyptus veneer.

The first phase of the multimillion-dollar renovation also included Cowrie Cove, the resort-hotel's first-rate seafood restaurant, which recently completed its $700,000 makeover. The dining venue stands on the beach cove, with a patio that gives a clear view of the ocean. It now includes a trendy chill-out bar which complements the idyllic setting. Guests can choose to dine al fresco or in air-conditioned rooms.

Strong level of confidence

Wright informs that Shangri-La owners were the ones who recommended the extensive renovation for the Mactan Island Resort. "The owners have a very strong level of confidence in the Philippines," Wright says. "They want to ensure that our facilities are maintained and the product is improved."

Renovation is now ongoing for the Garden Patio, the coffee shop which adapts lifestyle dining to resort environment. "People want freshness, variety and innovation whether they visit us for a holiday or business," Wright says. "We want to enhance the experience of coffee shop dining and constantly innovate."

Next year will see even bigger changes and additional sites at Shangri-La Mactan. The resort-hotel is opening a fully air-conditioned chapel, located right next to the sea. The chapel is designed by local architect Recio Casas and will use Philippine-made materials. "It will be a unique facility inspired by the success of the wedding chapel in Fiji," Wright grants. "We see the interest from both the local market and *balikbayans* to hold weddings in a resort."

Spa village

Also set to open next year is the Chi Spa Village, which will sit on more than 10,000 square meters of land area. The place will have 18 treatment villas and luxurious private spa suites, complete with bathing and sauna facilities which can soothe the body, indulge the senses and revitalize the spirit. "We want to take the whole spa experience in a resort to the next level," Wright says.

Designed by Singapore-based architect Dan Bubey, the Spa Village embraces a holistic approach to physical well-being, inspired by the Chinese philosophy and fusing ancient healing traditions, to be carried out by expert therapists.

The 547-room Shangri-La's Mactan Island Resort is the first resort in the Philippines to be certified by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) for its compliance with international standards. The idyllic tropical paradise is one of the eight resort-hotels in the popular Shangri-La chain in the Asia-Pacific, which includes four in Malaysia, one in Singapore, two in Fiji Island and one in Maldives, which will open soon.

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AVAILABLE THROUGH DEALERS NATIONWIDE

Fantasy World clubhouse completed

LEFT wing of the clubhouse with view deck

THE CONSTRUCTION of the Fantasy World country clubhouse, a huge structure a few meters at the back of the Bavarian-inspired castle on Diokno highway in Lemery, Metro Tagaytay, is now completed.

It has a fantastic panoramic view of Taal Lake and Volcano and has various leisure and recreational facilities like the view deck, coffee shop and restaurants, library, sauna and steam bath, indoor heated pool, bowling alleys, billiards, ice skating, conventional hall and function rooms, beauty salon and barber shop, music lounge, karaoke and videoke area and infirmary.

Water sports activity areas

The development work on the Water Theme Park is ongoing where there are numerous water sports activity areas like hot spring, slide pool, lazy river, white sand beach, boating man-made lagoon, wave pool, children's pool, gazebo and beach volleyball.

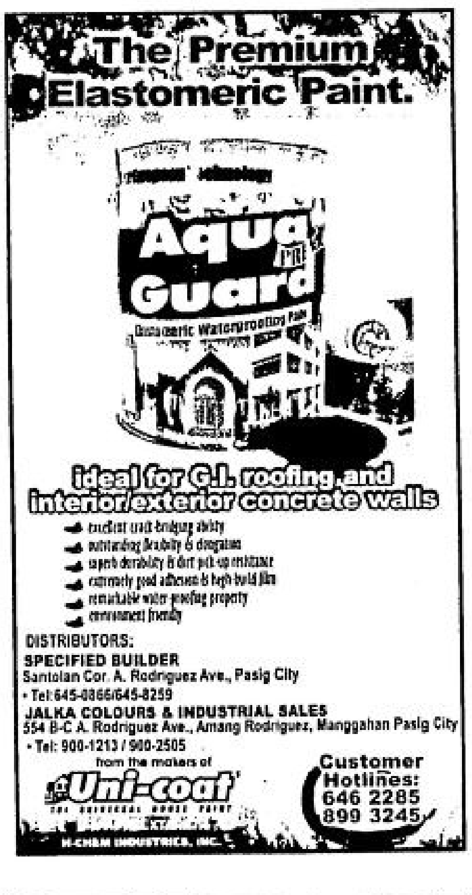
Nestled not too far away beside the clubhouse is the Wyndham Hills condotel, a 700-room condominium building, which has also been completed. While this is not part of the club facilities, unit owners have the option to stay here during their Tagaytay trips or rent them out to other club members and guests who choose to stay overnight during their visit.

A few years back, the gigantic medieval castle—the only one of its kind in the country—which resembles that of the castle built by King Ludwig III of Bavaria, Germany for his mother, opened its doors to club members.

Unique features

It is an imposing superstructure that it is now a distinct and famous landmark on Diokno Highway. It has so many unique features like the huge courtyard where weddings, birthday parties are held, complemented by the town café, queen's garden, chapel, fishing village, giant tree house and gazebo. With royal guards and pages serving the members of this exclusive club, it recreates the medieval times of pre-Renaissance Europe that would excite anyone. Members and their guests could go to the royal studio where they can have their photos taken in complete finery of a king and a queen.

The whole complex which is conceptually designed by Bullocks, Smith and Partners, consultant for World Fair Six Flags Theme Parks and JR Minick and Associates, consultants for Disney Development Corp., promises to make every visit to Metro Tagaytay a new exciting experience.



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No knocking on wood for termites, just gnawing

EVER wondered what makes wood so attractive to termites? Well, termites such as subterranean are drawn to fibers usually found in wood and things like paper, fiberboard and some fabrics derived from cotton or plants. Such fibers are said to help convert wood into food.

From sapwood like pine or cypress to dry wood and damp wood, termites are likely to forage greedily. Though there are certain types of wood found to repel or even toxic to these creatures, still it remains a staple. The more wood present at a property, the more enticing it becomes to termites. Thus, the possibility of infestation may not be far behind.

Effective termite control

The best solution usually points to vigilance by property owners particularly in the proper handling of wood or maintenance of wooden structures. But then again, it also helps to seek a highly efficient and effective termite control like Sentricon Termite Colony Elimination System.

Sentricon Termite Colony Elimination System is the most reliable extermination procedure because it uses a baiting system technology to eliminate termites. Unlike liquid termiticide where treatment only repels termites, Sentricon targets soldier termites that source out food.

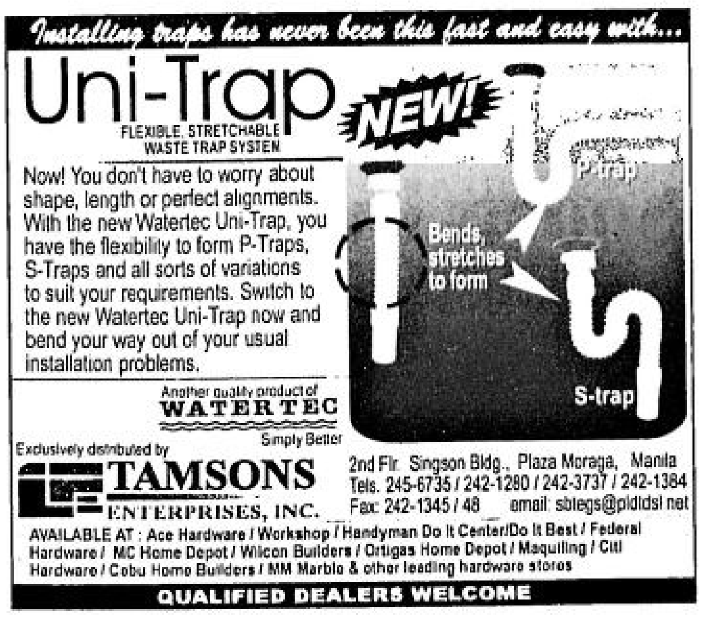
Long-term protection

By doing so, it prevents further proliferation of the colonies thus, leading to their eventual breakdown. What's more, it uses chemicals only where termites are present. The treatment contraptions are also properly sealed and discreetly placed thus, safest to have around children or even pets.

Offering long-term protection for homes and other establishments threatened by termite infestation, Sentricon Termite Colony Elimination System has been proven most effective and reliable.

So, in dealing with termites, the absence of wood is worth a pound of cure. But then again, there is always Sentricon.

To know more about the Sentricon Termite Colony Elimination System, call 435-9085, 861-3403, 850-4880, 371-9386, 819-1986, or visit www.sentricon.com.



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QUALIFIED DEALERS WELCOME

Seminar, review for realty broker's licensure exam

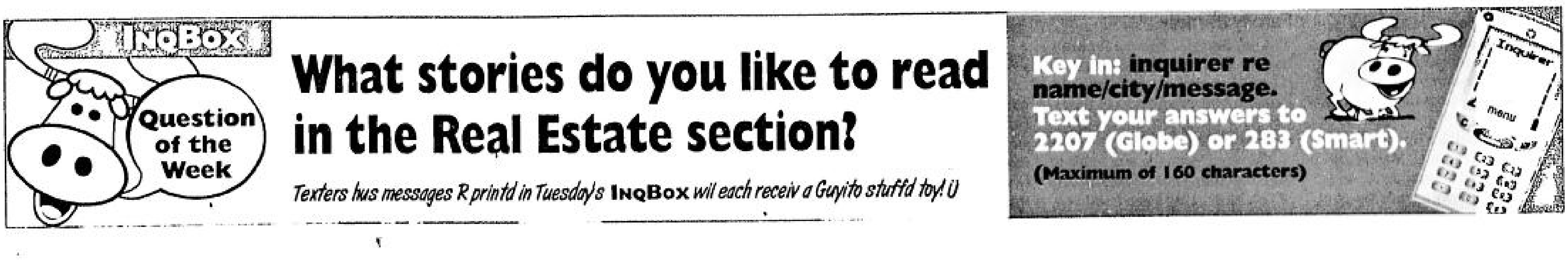
THE URBAN Institute of Real Estate will be holding a Comprehensive Real Estate Seminar in preparation for the broker's licensure examination scheduled on Nov. 28 and supervised by the trade department.

The Saturday section is scheduled on Oct. 9, 16 and 23 and Nov. 6, 13 and 20, from 1:15 to 6:45 p.m. at the Asian Institute of Management Conference Center, Benavidez corner Trasierra Street, Legaspi Village, Makati, while the Tuesday section is slated on Oct. 12, 19 and 26 and Nov. 9, 16 and 23, 1:15-6:45 p.m. at the Max's Restaurant, Glorietta 2, Park Square Drive corner Theater Dr., Ayala Center, Makati City. Both sections include a one-day general review before the examination date.

Dennis Tablizo, a recognized legal expert on land laws, and engineer Enrico S. Cruz, who have both produced a record passing rate of 92 percent, will lead experts and authorities in their respective fields on the lectures prescribed by DTI.

Cruz, a licensed real estate consultant was first and eighth placer in the realty appraisers and brokers board exams, respectively. He was recognized as a real estate fellow by the Philippine Council of Real Estate Educators.

For more information, call 681-0928 or e-mail urbanet@pacific.net.ph.



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Text your answers to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart).
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MINIMALIST STYLE

Looking at your bathroom from a different perspective

By Charles E. Buban

PLANNING and designing your bathroom is an important part of home building or remodeling.

"And yet, in a lot of homes, the bathroom is given the least importance, squeezing it into the smallest possible space—as if a necessary evil. This shouldn't be the case," says Lulu Topacio of American Standard.

In fact, the vice president for sales and marketing of the world's largest producer of bathroom and kitchen fixtures and fittings believes the bathroom should always be a place in which one can feel at peace and relaxed.

Explains Topacio: "Consider it the most important section of the house. Once everything is set inside the bathroom, you cannot just change, transfer or rearrange anything (especially if you discover something is not functioning right) the way you would with your bedroom or living room."

To achieve this, she suggests investing some time in careful planning as this can help one to design a beautiful and functional bathroom.

FROM BUILDING an entire wall pf shelving or cabinetry to adding cabinet units under or over the bathroom counter, it's possible to create a clutter-free space.

Style and build

"Probably the greatest challenge in building or remodeling a bathroom is figuring out how to achieve the style and build in the features you want within the limits of what is probably the smallest room in the house," Topacio says.

And yet, even if one is remodeling an existing bathroom and restricted to the physical size of the room, that person may still be able to work wonders.

Says Topacio: "If you are replacing everything in the bathroom, you don't need to install them in the same position as the original. You can design the grand bathroom you dream about—however, the actual installation will depend on how much money and inconvenience you are willing to tolerate."

Generally, there are four stages in planning a bathroom:

- Measuring up and noting the position of the existing services (plumbing), windows and doors;
- Working out the plan to get the bathroom fixtures where you want them;
- Deciding on any structural work which needs to be carried out—either building new or moving walls, doors or windows; and,
- Deciding on any changes to the services (electricity, water, drains) you need.

Decide on style

Now that you have established a basic floor plan for the bathroom, it's time to decide on style.

"Will it be traditional, contemporary, or an eclectic mix? Fixtures, flooring, hardware, color and wall coverings all work together to create a particular look and mood," shares Topacio.

For Topacio, this is where American Standard has the advantage.

"With this American company tracing its roots back to the 19th century and having been sold here in the Philippines since 1961, the company was able to learn from experience and incorporate every idea and suggestion from its clients worldwide to its products and services," she says.

Minimalist design

Today, Topacio believes the trend is toward minimalist design—open-space planning and stripped-down, seemingly simple forms.

"Minimalist design has always made sense in the bathroom. By understanding the essence of this modern design, you can transform your bathroom into a simple yet luxurious, minimalist retreat," Topacio says.

She says emphasis is given on clean, crisp lines and as uninterrupted as possible. "Although minimalist style gets its beauty from simple lines, it can still accommodate a seductive curve or two."

Although this style favors the uninterrupted plane, it also welcomes surface variations, as long as the form has a necessary function.

"For example, consider incorporating surface-mounted fittings and fixtures, from a sink bowl atop the counter to a high-arching faucet off the wall," Topacio volunteers.

Sleek fittings and fixtures

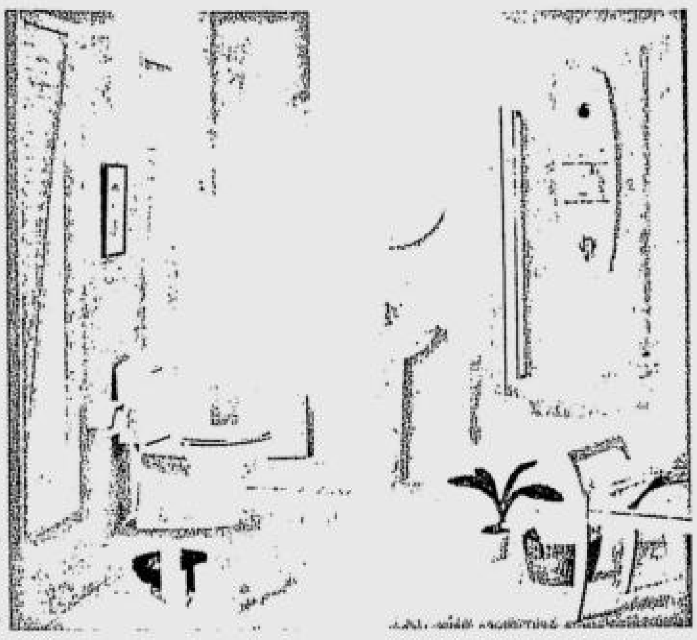
"Following this philosophy, American Standard is currently offering space-saving and style-enhancing designs such as sleek wall-mounted fittings and fixtures," shares Topacio.

For example, American Standard's Minis suite gets away from the common and ordinary looks with its elegant European design concept.

"When it comes to creating your space, it's not necessary to strip away either luxury or comfort to make or remake your bath in the minimalist style. With Minis suite's exceptional form and function, one doesn't need to have a spacious room to be grand," describes Topacio.

Indeed, limitations of space that is usually encountered when planning a bathroom can substantially be overcome by intelligent design solutions.

"And we will be more than ready to accommodate some inquiries (on bathroom requirements) through our customer service hotline 809-5556," shares Topacio.



SIMPLE yet elegant Minis suite

WHILE MINIMALISM generally demands a monochromatic color palette, strong hues can be used on one or several of the room's key planes.

Montgomery Place's Legacy celebrates homeland traditions

MONTGOMERY Place will be celebrating Chinese homeland traditions at its Legacy portion with a special mooncake and lantern festival on Sept. 26. The event will be held at the Montgomery Place Townhall, starting at 10 a.m.

Fun for all ages will be spotlighted once more, as the development's special day for themed games and activities will be the perfect chance for families to glimpse Ayala Land's premier single-detached homes.

Games, activities

Dress up in Chinese costumes and have some memorable family photos taken. Join contests where delectable mooncakes and other goodies will be up for grabs.

Enjoy the cozy atmosphere, friendly ambiance and satisfying lunch with friends and future neighbors of the fastest-growing community in the heart of the city. The colorful occasion will also be a perfect opportunity to check out the most sought-after abodes of the distinctly designed Legacy project.

Most sought-after abodes

The large homes are ideal for both full nesters with growing children, or empty nesters who want the amenities of spacious community living.

These are designed with elegance and simplicity in mind; its American south architecture allowing for good ventilation and ample natural lighting. Each feng shui-friendly Legacy home also affords residents extra room for parking and landscape artistry.

Montgomery Place is located at E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City. It is conveniently situated near hospitals, schools, and commercial establishments. For details about the event, please call Jill Ang at 841-5523, or Lala Nadal at 759-4225.

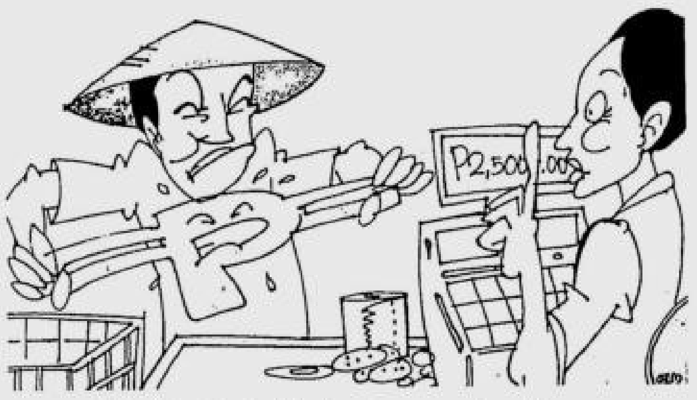
Creba urges gov't to raise wages soonest

THE CHAMBER of Real Estate and Builders Associations (Creba) yesterday stressed that wages must be raised, while interest rates pegged as soon as possible if government expects to prevent the imminent rise in criminality and lawlessness—an evil worse than the alleged fiscal crisis.

Even the onset of the alleged fiscal crisis and the inflation spawned by the oil crisis, Creba said, the country's workforce was already suffering from the increasing disparity between cost of living and per capita income. Except for the P10 daily allowance given the workforce, it said, no other relief either in terms of wage hike or lowering of prices has been given to the workers.

Instead, Creba said, the prices of goods and services continue to spiral, government appears disposed to impose new tax burdens, such as the increase in value added tax and/or the adoption of gross income taxation, and no one seems able to contain the price increases in petroleum products.

Creba said it understands that the business community cannot afford to raise wages if the source for that increase will come from them. This will truly translate to greater difficulties for the business sector and eventual rise in unemployment and downsizing of businesses.



But, Creba pointed out, if the wage increases are to be funded from the savings that the business community will realize roughly from the cost of borrowing, this solution will work wonders for the betterment of both capital and labor. "If the interest rate for bank lending is pegged to, say seven percent to nine percent tax-free, the savings from borrowing costs will be roughly anywhere from 10 percent to 14 percent. Then minimum wages may be raised by as much as P150 per day, while prices of goods may be lowered by as much as 15 percent of current levels. And the benefits do not stop there."

Creba said: "The resulting improvement in the market, the birth of more small and medium enterprises and entrepreneurs, the entry of new businesses and the expansion of existing ones, the relief to government in terms of debt-servicing, the strengthening of the banking system with the banishment of nonperforming loans and the improvement of the overall business climate—all these will bring about a sound, robust and healthy economy. These will be the added bonuses from this singular move."

Moreover, the chamber said, "A contented citizenry and a strong middle class that will emerge from a sound and robust economy should further translate to the sustenance of peace and order and the elimination of graft and corruption in government. In the light of the worsening plight of our suffering people, the government's call for austerity is empty and wistful because even without such call, the large majority of our people are living in a more than austere existence. And when people are hungry and desperate, instincts of self-preservation may blind them into committing lawlessness of different degrees and intensity."

The chamber also said:

"Creba's prescription of pegging interest rates is neither painful nor difficult. On the contrary, under the circumstances, the proposed measure seems to be the only solution available.

"This prescription is neither radical nor experimental. What needs to be recalled only is the regime of the Anti-Usury Law which pegged interest rates to 12 percent taxable, which was with us from 1916 to 1978. During this long period, our country's economy performed splendidly compared to that of our Asian neighbors. Creba's formula is not only tried and tested but on the contrary is the much-needed panacea that this country needs at this time."

Sporty living at the Celebrity Place

COUPLE Martin and Betsy Gan made one of their best decisions in life when they bought a townhouse unit at the Celebrity Place in Diliman, Quezon City.

The Gans, the first family tenant in this exclusive and upscale community, now brags their new address to friends and business associates.

A-1 housing community

"The project is indeed a first-rate housing community with impressive sports facilities," said Martin, pointing out the facilities of the Celebrity Sports Club which he instantly enjoyed upon transferring to his new home late last year.

A businessman involved in import and trading, Martin is a swimming aficionado. A weekend for him would not be complete without using the Olympic-size swimming pool of the Celebrity Club which is just a few steps away from his townhouse unit.

"I practically spend my leisure time here at the pool during weekends," he said.

For her part, Betsy just loves the Spa at the club and the relaxing greens integrated within the two-hectare exclusive community.

Family friendly

Said Betsy: "The community has a family-friendly environment. It is well-secured. My two kids can now enjoy most of the facilities at the sports club anytime of their choice."

The family makes it a habit to dine together once a week at any of the sports club's food and beverage outlets—a choice of Cafea coffee shop, Victoria for fine dining or the pool side bar for casual meals.

Like the Gans, other residents can also enjoy all the amenities of a sporty living at the Celebrity Place.

The community is designed by renowned architect Rolando Mercado (of Rolando Mercado Design Associates) who integrated Mediterranean-inspired structures in a well-landscaped environment.

3 basic models

The townhouses come in three basic models which differ in frontage and floor area. The smallest of the three is the Audrey model, which is ideal for upwardly mobile professionals. It has a five-meter frontage and floor area of 149 square meters.

The mid-sized unit is the Bette model which is recommended for young families. It has a six-meter frontage and floor area of 179 sq m.

The most spacious of the three is the Catherine model, which is ideal for growing families like the Gans. It has a seven-meter frontage and floor area of 211 sq m. All units bear standard features such as a two-car garage, three bedrooms, two toilet and bath, a powder room, cathedral ceiling, a walk-in closet and a lanai.

Good buy

For the Gans, the Celebrity Place is a good buy and a wise investment decision.

Said Martin: "You have a prime location in Quezon City which is accessible to premiere learning institutions, shopping and business centers. The townhouses are built with first-class materials and finishes and most importantly you get the privileges of full membership at the Celebrity Club."

The Celebrity Place is the maiden project of One Asia Development Corp. and Riviera Land Corp.

THE LIVING room of the Gans's townhouse unit at the Celebrity Place

LIFESTYLE

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or email us at pr_lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**

WHAT you need to have to be well /D4

MONDAY **ARTS & BOOKS** ● TUESDAY **FITNESS** ● WEDNESDAY **2BU** ● THURSDAY **FOOD** ● FRIDAY **FASHION & BEAUTY**

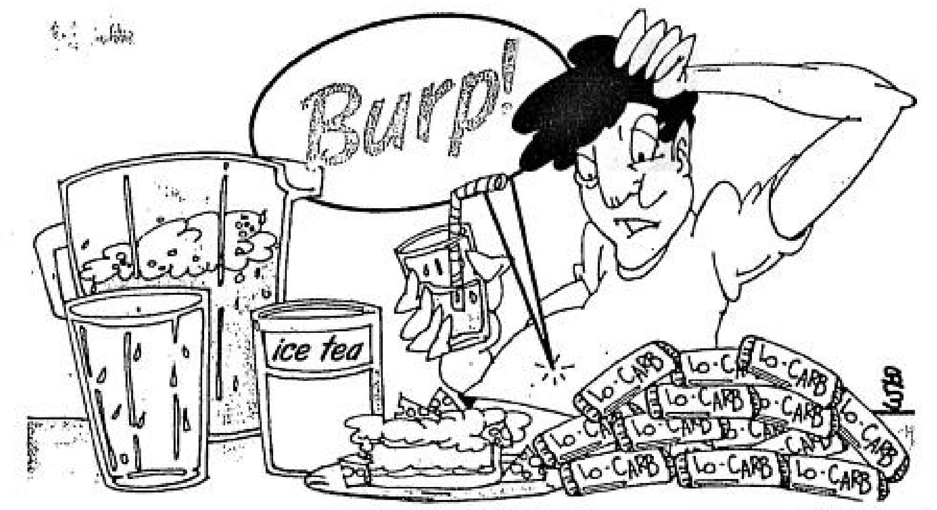

ILLUSTRATION: ANTHONY MISTADES

More habits that can make you fat

Part Two

WELL AND GOOD
Tina Juan

HOW and what you eat can make a difference in how much you weigh.

Not enough fiber

If you aren't getting enough fiber in your daily diet, it means you aren't eating enough whole grains, vegetables, fruits and legumes, and are missing out on their weight control benefits.

Research at Penn State University found that the volume of food you eat is directly linked to how full you feel after a meal. Foods that are most filling but relatively low in calories are those that contain the most fiber and water like vegetables and fruits.

If you are eating mostly refined carbohydrates like white rice and white bread, you can end up eating more than you need to satisfy your hunger because refined carbs are not as filling as high-fiber food.

Food that is high in fiber takes longer to digest and keeps you from feeling hungry faster between meals. It also takes you longer to chew fibrous food. Eating more slowly gives your brain and stomach time to realize when you are full.

A 1997 study suggests that for every gram of fiber you eat, you may be absorbing seven fewer calories. The researchers speculate that, because fiber leaves the body undigested, the calories in fiber-rich food are less easily absorbed.

Another study found that women who double their daily fiber intake from 12-24 g reduce their calories by 90 a day while men going from 18-36 g of fiber reduce their calories by 130.

Drinking excess calories

It's not only the calories you eat but also the calories you drink that you should consider. Drinking excess calories is a common weight loss mistake many people make. Liquid calories aren't as obvious as those in solids.

For example, four cookies equal 200 calories (the average cookie has about 50 calories) while a large 16-oz tumbler of iced tea (powdered commercial mix) is equivalent to 180 calories. Someone trying to lose weight will avoid the cookies but may think nothing of guzzling down the iced tea and even asking for a refill.

A Purdue University study found that people would usually eat less when they knew they had eaten too many calories, but they wouldn't make any adjustments with their drinks. The study involved 15 healthy people who were divided into two groups.

One group was told to eat 450 calories worth of jellybeans a day. The other group was instructed to drink the same amount of calories in the form of soft drinks (the equivalent of one liter of cola). After two weeks, the two groups switched. When a group ate candies, they made adjustments in their diet so they did not gain any weight. But with soft drinks, they made no such adjustment and, thus, gained weight.

Researchers speculate that liquids do not make us feel full the same way that solid food does. If you want to lose weight, think of a drink as a dessert or a snack.

Overeating 'diet' food

You buy low-fat cookies or low-carb chocolate bars to reduce calorie intake. But if you eat double or triple servings because "they're low-fat or low-carb anyway," then you are in for a rude surprise.

When low-fat diets were popular, people gained weight because of the Snackwell Cookie Syndrome. Snackwell manufactured a popular nonfat cookie. Believing that nonfat meant zero calories, people finished one or two boxes instead of just one or two cookies.

Now that low-carb diets are in, people on the Atkins and South Beach Diets are doing the same thing. Nancy Hellmich wrote in USA Today, "Experts staffing the Atkins

MORE/ D3

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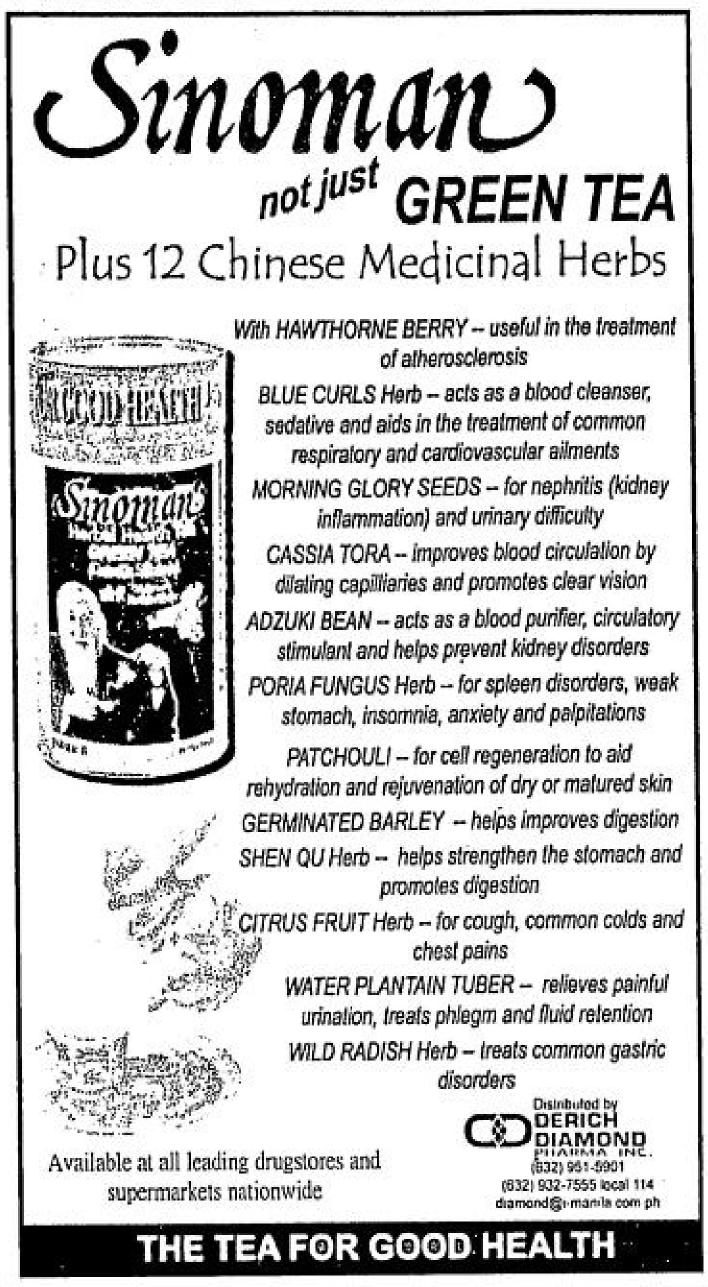
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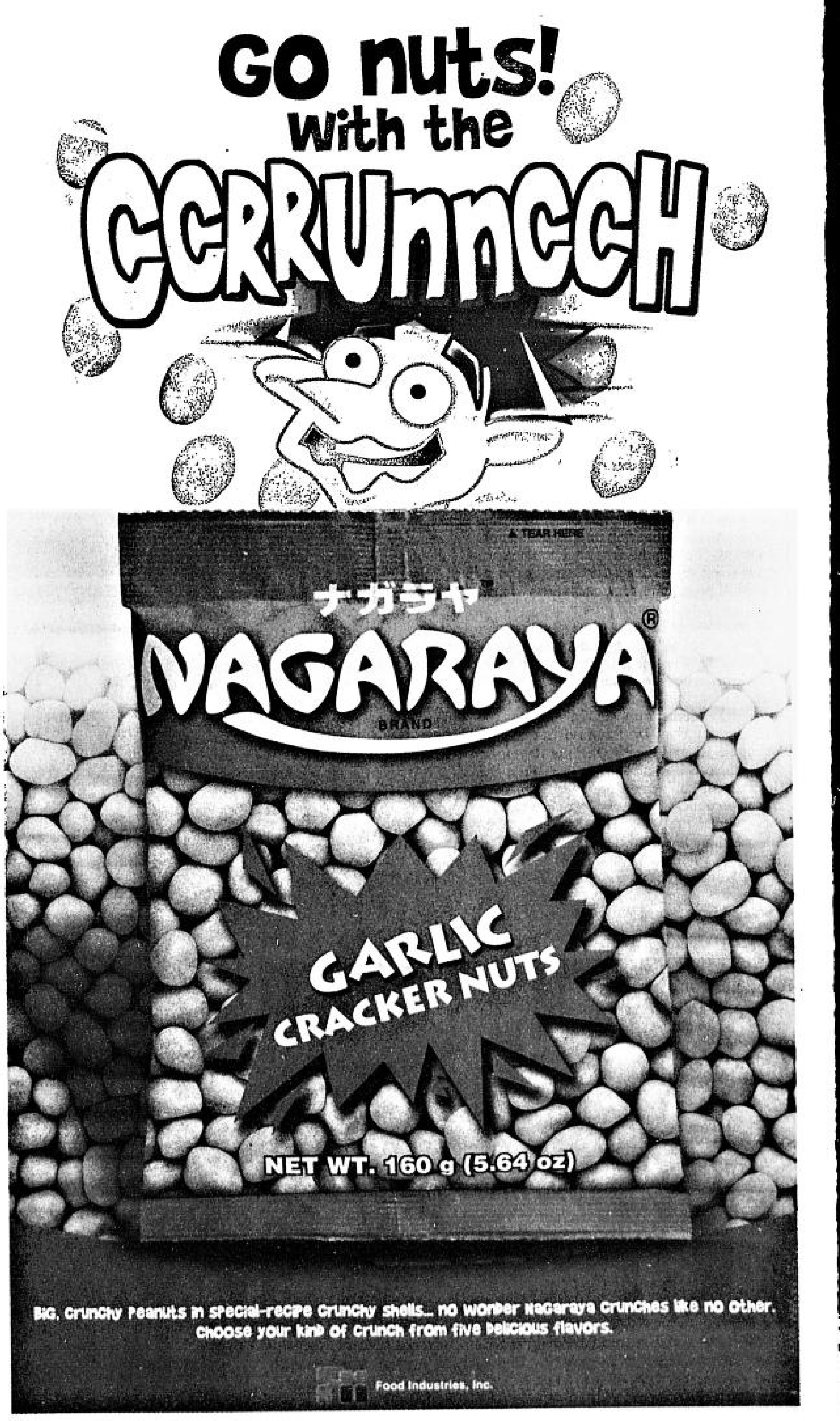
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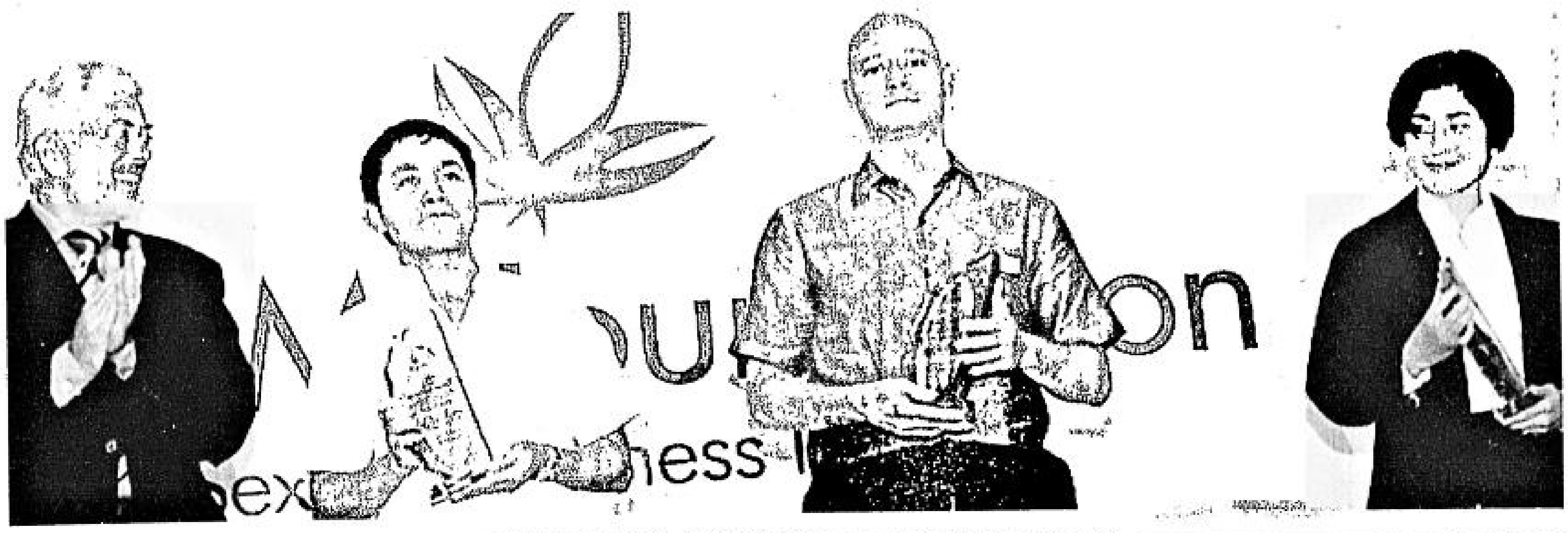
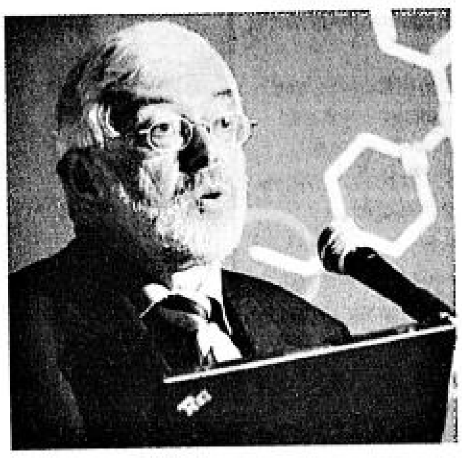


DR. Erwin Bischoff, who invented Vardenafil, applauds representatives of Manille's premier men's magazines who received plaques of appreciation—Eric Ramos of FHM, Vanni de Sequera of Manual and Marga Moreno, who represented Men's Zone associate editor Judith Juntilla.



DR. Erwin Bischoff, German biochemist with Bayer HealthCare

BAYER HealthCare general manager Sanjay Murdeshwar

MODELS (clockwise from top) Cedric Sanchez, Jay Roa and Manuel Fehz promote sexual health and wellness.

NOTHING gets in the way of couples who pursue active lifestyles, like Kenji Marquez and Pazzy Navarro.

BEAUTIFUL couple Bianca Valerio and Mikee Carreon

FULL-TIME mom Ritzie Banzon with husband, gym owner Raul Banzon

Standing up for wellness in all its forms

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by **Alex Van Hagen** on **Kodak Max**

COSMO Manille's young, active, hip movers and shakers were with some of the country's most esteemed doctors and super wellness experts.

The occasion: the fantastic, super talked-about Philippine launch of that miracle sexual discovery for young—yes, *palanggas*—and not-so-young, called Levitra, a breakthrough drug that can heighten the orgasmic experience, improve overall sexual satisfaction and the quality of our life.

Superbly organized by brilliant **Amor Maclang** of the popular Geiser Maclang Communications Inc. for world-renowned Bayer Phils., it was also a super welcome for the Sexual Wellness in Men (SWIM) Foundation, a new organization of multidisciplinary experts that advocates a holistic approach to men's sexual wellness.

Heading the pack were Bayer Phils.' mega hotshots: general manager **Sanjay Murdeshwar**, group product manager **Michael Pangilinan** and senior product manager **Michael Arnonobal**, all giving their full support to SWIM and all that it stood for—literally.

It was fun watching members of the Professional Models Association of the Phils. (PMAP), who "excitedly" took part in this one-of-a-kind happening, this time not to parade down the ramp, but to promote overall sexual health and wellness. The models couldn't stop chatting among themselves about how a legit prescription drug can tremendously spice up one's sex life.

The man of the hour was definitely the world-renowned German pharmacologist, Dr. **Erwin Bischoff**, who invented this reliable and "fast-acting sex-enhancing drug. Levitra is described as a state-of-the-art potent molecule yet highly selective, making it safe and effective for the broad population, including young men at the prime of their lives."

In other words, the drug is suited not only for those with "issues." In fact, a running joke at the affair was: "My sex life is great, and with Levitra, it can even be much better."

A snappy presentation was delivered by some of the country's top medical experts—UP-PGH Urology chief Dr. **Eduardo Gatchalian**; Philippine Heart Center's Dr. **Luis Raymond Go**; clinical psychologist Dr. **Ephraim Gochangco**; Philippine Urological Association executive council member Dr. **Dennis Serrano**.

Yes, *palanggas*, the launching of Levitra—brand name Vardenafil—and SWIM Foundation was a landmark event.

Now we have a deeper and more gratifying level of understanding, and sexual satisfaction is a possibility for all men of all ages. Not bad, huh?

Fitness guru **Tina Aboitiz-Juan** said it all: "To be well means to be well, in all aspects." I guess you know what that means, *di bala*?

So, guys, let's live life to the fullest with cool Levitra.

Bedazzled

Dear Webster defines "solstice" as a stopping or standing of the sun. And I'm dead-sure all you lovers of fine jewelry agree that the sun's brilliance and breathtaking beauty can be seen in the dazzle of masterfully sculpted gold, or the sparkle of an exquisitely cut diamond.

Well, *palanggas*, Cosmo Manille has now a fab new line of premium jewelry. Unveiled at the Makati Shangri-La, it drew our town's society luminaries like Sen. **Loi Ejercito**, Jewelmer's **Baby Cruz, Ising Madrigal Vazquez**, philanthropist **Baby Arenas**, vivacious **Vicky Belo, Nini Licaros**, plus young, hip jewelry lovers **Carmina Sanchez, Trish Briones** and **Bianca Salonga.**

"Inspired by the vision of a sun at a standstill, the Solstice line consists of high-grade, meticulously handmade pieces that introduce various precious metals, stones and designs of a caliber never before seen in the country."

Solstice designer, the renowned multi-awarded **Shiraishi Hisako**, who has won such accolades as the International Platinum Design Award and several Japanese jewelry awards, jetted in from Ginza to personally meet diamond's best friends in Manille, *palanggas*.

Hisako's pieces are beautifully crafted with immense care and great attention to detail. "Solstice provides jewelry lovers with endless opportunities to play, as nature intended, while delicate colors hold hints of hidden delights," she says.

PMAP's top models sashayed among the invitees in a **Jackie Aquino**-directed fashion show, showing off dazzling Solstice pieces with the black gowns of designers **Alex Bitong** and **Anne Chavez.** Lady luck was with super surprised **Chari Legarda**, who won a dazzling platinum scarf necklace worth almost P200,000, dahlings.

"Tonight was just a preview of the many more exciting pieces we will bring over when The Solstice Store officially opens this October," beamed the 24 years young entrepreneur behind Solstice, good-looking **Jose Andres Rueda.**

Construction of the store in a yet undisclosed location at the Ayala Center will begin soon. So all you ladies who must have a piece of Shirai H's, watch out for this opening.

Call GP Reyes at 0917-8534747 or Jose Andres Rueda at 0927-7990397.

Fund-raising projects

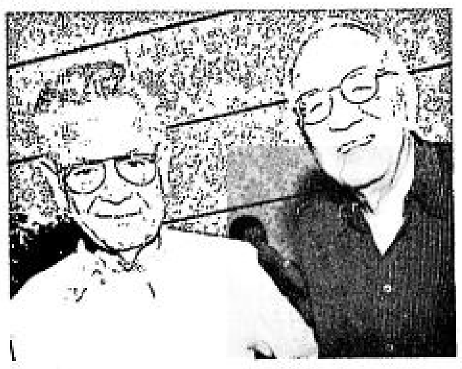
Whoever said our town's society ladies only spend their time shopping and in beauty salons is dead wrong, *palanggas*. The Catholic Women's Club (CWC), for its 83rd anniversary, has organized three fund-raising activities for close to 100 of their beneficiaries, including Elsie Gaches Village, Makabata Foundation, Tuloy Don Bosco Foundation, Missionaries of Charities of Mother Teresa, Carmelite Monastery in Zamboanga, Southeast Asian Institute for the Deaf, and Nazareth House for Street Children, *palanggas*.

CWC super active president **Alice Briones** announced that the first fundraising project will be on Sept. 24 at the Peninsula Hotel in Makati, headed by special event chair **Imelda Cojuangco**, no less. Co-chairs are **Irene Martel Francisco, Nonie Basilio, Cha Cha Camacho** and **Tita Rodriguez.**

The second and third activities will be the popular Casa y Jardin, Oct. 10 and 17, at the Hotel InterContinental, Makati. As always, there will be tons of unique export overruns and imported items.

Be there, dahlings, for both events, and help our less privileged brothers and sisters.

FASHIONABLE southern lady Olga Martel with the new PR boy on the block, GP Reyes, and Monaco consul Fortune Ledesma



THEY DISH out the cash. Dr. Danny Vasquez and Jose Periquet

INTERNATIONAL award-winning jewelry designer Shiraishi Hisako and top Japanese jeweler Sinishi Kobayashi

JEWELMER'S radiant pearl, Baby Cruz, with Baby Arenas and Ising Madrigal Vazquez

DIAMONDS are their best friend. Socialite Evie Costa with Nini Licaros, Naty Pappas, Helen Ong and Nena del Rosario

SEN. Loi Ejercito meets the designer of Solstice jewelry Shiraishi Hisako.

SPECIAL events committee: (standing) Maricar Sobrepeña, Tessie Amparo, Celine Bautista, Minerva Tanseco, Nori Ongsiako and Tita Rodriguez; (seated) Nonie Basilio, president Alice Briones, Meldy Cojuangco, Carrie Bautista and Irene Martel Francisco

CASA Y JARDIN 2004 bazaar committee: (standing) Joey Sobrepeña with Isabel Oriol, holding one of the scrolls of Anita Magsaysay-Ho; Ane Preysler; Mely Magsino, Baby Gloria and Shirley Uy; (seated) president Alice Briones, Chat Pueo and Alice Dee with the limited-edition blue and white plate by artist Merci Melchor

Fairies in photographs

Even Sherlock Holmes' creator, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, became interested in the pictures

INNER AWARENESS

Jaime T. Licauco

ARE fairy creatures simply folk tales told by superstitious rural people, without any objective reality? Do we have physical proof of their existence?

I have a collection of about a dozen genuine photographs of spirits of the dead from several countries, including the Philippines. But pictures of elemental creatures, such as fairies, are rare, indeed.

Though fairies come in many sizes and shapes, we shall confine our meaning of the term to their usual or more common appearance as small beautiful female creatures with gossamer wings and flowing—often sparkling—transparent clothing.

The most remarkable and controversial photographic documentation of fairies were those taken by Frances Griffiths, 10, and her cousin Elsie Wright, 13, in the Yorkshire Village of Cottingley in 1917. At the back of Elsie's house was a beautiful glen, a wild and secluded valley bordered by a stream.

It was here that the two girls saw fairies which became their friends. When the girls told Elsie's parents that there were friendly fairies in their backyard, the adults did not believe the youngsters. The girls told them they would prove the fairies' existence.

Arthur Wright lent them his camera and the girls took pictures of each other in the glen. When Wright developed the film, he saw Frances, her hand under her chin, and winged fairies prancing around her. Unconvinced, Wright told the girls to take more photos. Another plate was loaded. This time the picture showed Elsie with a little winged gnome in tights and pointed cap about to jump into her lap.

Elsie's parents were convinced the girls simply used cutout figures of winged fairies from magazines, but could find no trace of them anywhere. The girls insisted the photos were genuine.

Sherlock Holmes' creator

Three years later, in 1920, the photos got into the hands of a Theosophist named Edward L. Gardner. He had the negatives checked by a professional photographer, an expert in faked photography. The expert, Henry Snelling, declared the two photographs to be genuine.

When the photos were brought to the attention of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, the famous author of the Sherlock Holmes detective stories, he became interested because he was planning to write about fairy tales for a magazine.

Doyle wanted to use the pictures for illustrations. He sought further proof of their authenticity. He sent the photos and negatives to Kodak, which declared it could not find any evidence of faking, although it did not rule out such a possibility.

Gardner went to Cottingley and asked the girls to take more photos. By this time, the girls were aged 16 and 13. They were given a new camera with secretly marked plates. Three more photos were taken and each recorded the presence of fairies. The photographic company identified their marked plates and, after analysis, declared the photos authentic.

It was after this that Doyle wrote his most controversial book, "The Coming of the Fairies."

MANY remained unconvinced of the genuineness of the fairy photographs taken by the Cottingley girls.

Not for publicity

Geoffrey Hodson, a Theosophist and clairvoyant, spent several weeks interviewing the two girls and was convinced of their honesty. They were not out for publicity and, in fact, asked Doyle to keep their names secret. They also refused payment for the photographs.

Experts pointed out that "faking the photographs would have taken considerable time and would have required technical skills far beyond an amateur photographer."

Despite all the precautions taken by these highly respectable and intelligent individuals, many remained unconvinced of the genuineness of the fairy photographs taken by the Cottingley girls. Critics questioned the motives and impartiality of the investigators. They pointed out that "Gardner was deeply involved in the subject as an investigator of the paranormal, Hodson was a confirmed believer in fairies, Mrs. Wright was a theosophist; and, for all his reputation as a logician, Conan Doyle had become a spiritualist."

In the Philippines, belief in fairies (called *engkantada* or *diwata*) is deeply ingrained in the people's psyche or consciousness because they have actually had personal and physical encounters with these beautiful angelic creatures. They need no photographs to convince them of the ethereal creatures' existence.

E-mail jlicauco@edsamail.com.ph. Listen to "Inner Mind" on dzMM, 7-8 p.m., Sundays.

More habits that can make you fat

From page D1

customer information service are getting calls and questions online from disappointed dieters who can't understand why they aren't losing weight. The problem: Dieters are eating too many of these new low-carb protein bars, muffins and brownie mixes, which are low in carbohydrates but often high in calories."

Hellmich reported that the clinic of Dr. Arthur Agatston, author of "The South Beach Diet," had its share of patients who "have gotten tripped up by eating too many low-carb, high-calorie products." Marie Almon, a registered dietician who works for Agatston, told Hellmich that "one woman on the diet was treating herself twice a day to a piece of low-carb cheesecake and she was wondering why she was gaining weight."

No matter which way you look at it and no matter what diet you follow, low-fat or low-carb, calories still matter. So don't go overboard with diet products.

What about diet soft drinks that use artificial sweeteners? The drinks are truly zero calories (or below 5 calories, which is legally considered "zero") but research suggests that some people tend to eat more when they have a diet soft drink. This may be because they subconsciously believe they can have that second serving since they are already shaving calories or because the body reacts to the artificial sweetener like it is real sugar and makes them hungrier.

* * *

The UP-PGH Department of Orthopedics Sports Clinic will hold its 1st Post-Graduate Course, "Keen Eye for the Sports Guy," Sept. 25, UP College of Medicine, Pedro Gil, Manila. Topics include: Pediatric & Geriatric Athletes, The Female Athlete, Extreme Sports, Athletic Screening, Dermatologic Sports Conditions, and Management of Sports Injuries. Call 5242203.

Visit tinajuanfitness.com

PARTY girls with models Raya Mananquil (right) and Corey Wills

Kiss the bachelors

THE FINAL round of the Cosmo Bachelor Bash is set on Sept. 23 at the NBC Tent, Fort Bonifacio, Global City.

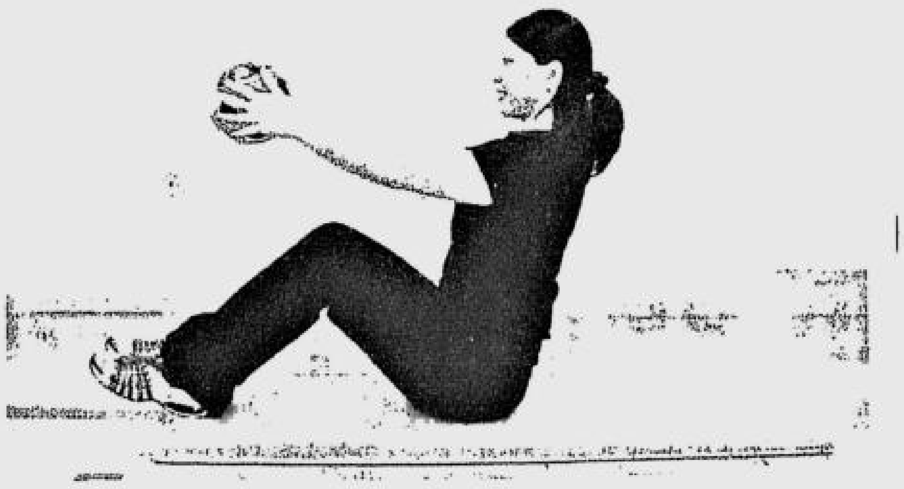
The event coincides with the Astring-o-sol Ice Sexiest Kiss Game.

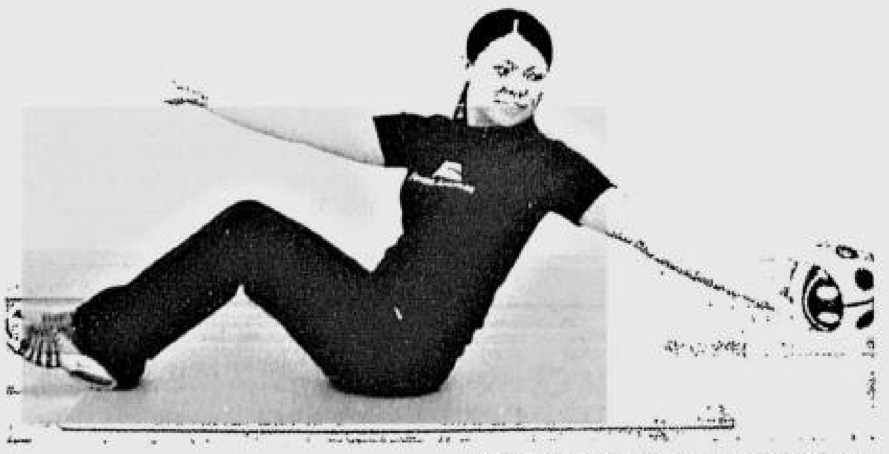
Recently, lucky women puckered up at Temple Bar for one of a series of Cosmo Bachelor Bash Bar Tours. The women were very pleased to be at the receiving end of the sexiest kisses from gorgeous hunks.

Astring-o-sol Ice gives you 12-hour protection from bacteria for the freshest breath.

EXERCISE OF THE WEEK

V-sit reach back





THIS Pilates-inspired exercise works the muscles of the trunk-abdominals and lower back.

Equipment:

Exercise mat. Mini ball is optional.

Exercise technique:

1. Sit with your knees bent and legs together. Hold the ball with both hands and arms straight in front of you.
2. Lean back slightly until you feel your abs contract.
3. Reach back with one arm while leaning backwards even more with your torso.
4. Return to starting position.

Performance tips:

1. If you have a history of lower back problems, check with your doctor first.
2. You can do this exercise without the ball.

Repetitions:

Do five to 10 repetitions on each side. You can do all the reps on one side at a time or you can do them alternating.

Menopause: The what, why and when of it...

Menopause is essentially the end of menstruation, when the ovaries start to shut off production of the female hormones estrogen and progesterone. This usually occurs between the ages of 48 and 52.

Some women go through menopause for years, starting as early as in their mid 40's when the monthly bleed starts to change either happening at closer intervals or further apart or none at all. The blood flow may also change, usually becoming lighter and at times unpredictable.

Menopause has three stages namely premenopause, peri-menopause and post-menopause. During pre-menopause (ages 35-45) the menstrual cycle is still regular and women continue to be fertile and reproductive. Perimenopause is the stage (ages 45-48) when the period becomes irregular and symptoms like hot flushes and night sweats start to occur. Postmenopause is characterized by the absence of bleeding for at least 12 consecutive months. Common symptoms include hot flushes, night sweats, mood swings, irritability, decreased libido and vaginal dryness.

Women have varying degrees of symptoms and each one is unique from the rest. Some do pass this stage without feeling any of its symptoms. For the rest who do experience it, there is no need to worry.

Know yourself fully well and be aware of the changes your body undergoes. Eat the right food, do regular exercise, avoid excessive alcohol and smoking and have the right amount of rest and sleep.

Don't let menopause take away the joys of midlife. Ask your doctor for treatment options to alleviate its symptoms.

For questions or suggestions please e-mail: **livial@organon.ph**

"Midlife should be a rewarding time to spend with your loved ones, to enjoy your own time and to stay fit and healthy."

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Take Charge Doc!

Dr. Nicky S. Montoya

Take Charge Doc! is your weekly question and answer guide on general health issues and illnesses. MEDICard's Medical Director, Dr. Nicky Montoya answers questions on health through the assistance and expertise of MEDICard's network of accredited specialists. And in a common thrust with the campaigns of the government, Take Charge Doc! parallels its features on the Calendar of Health Events of the Department of Health.

What forms of treatment are available for liver cancer?

Hepatocelluar carcinoma (HCC) or liver cancer is an aggressive tumor that frequently occurs in the setting of chronic liver disease or cirrhosis. It is typically diagnosed late in its course, with the median survival being approximately 6 to 20 months following diagnosis. Therapeutic options that will best benefit the patient with liver cancer depend on the current liver reserve and the state of the tumor.

The treatment modalities that are locally available and most commonly used in clinical practice are:

1. **Surgery** - The surgical removal of the diseased section of the liver is ideally suited for patients with good liver condition and no invasion of liver vasculature.
2. **Orthotopic Liver Transplantation** - The procedure may be safely done in carefully selected patients. However, prolonged waiting for a liver donor often results in further tumor growth.
3. **Percutaneous Ethanol Injection** - The injection of 95% ethanol into a tumor can induce destruction of tumor cells and tumor shrinkage. Patients often require multiple sessions and monitoring via ultrasound or CT scan.
4. **Radiofrequency Ablation** - This involves the local application of radiofrequency (RF) thermal energy to the tumor thereby causing tumor death.
5. **Transarterial Chemoembolization (TACE)**-involves the injection of a chemotherapeutic agent into the hepatic artery (main blood supply line of the liver).

Generally, most liver cancer patients require multimodal treatment strategies.

This week's answer to our feature question on treatment methods for liver cancer was provided by **Dr. Willy S. Alba.** Dr. Alba, a recent addition to MEDICard's medical team of accredited doctors, is based in Manila Adventist Medical Center the former Manila Sanitarium and Hospital. He is a batch 1994 Medicine graduate of the University of Santo Tomas. In 1996 he took residency training for a specialization in Internal Medicine followed by a subspecialty residency in Gastroenterology at UP-PGH from 2000 to 2002. MEDICard members may visit Dr. Alba's clinic at Room 15 A for their Internist consultations. He holds clinic every Tuesdays from 10 AM to 12 noon and on Fridays from 1 to 4 in the afternoon.

BE HEARD AND BE READ. Write to DR. NICKY S. MONTOYA (c/o *TAKE CHARGE DOC!*) or e-mail him at inquiry@medicardphils.com for inquiries on health matters.

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The two Cs you need for wellness

INSIDE OUT

Cory Quirino

"Fear not that your life will come to an end, but that it will never have a beginning."—**John Henry Newton, British theologian**

HOW do you separate the doers from the dreamers? Easy. Let's start with yourself.

In accomplishing whatever task is at hand, let's say your health plan, there are two major components: commitment and courage—the two Cs.

All tasks begin with a desire. Your heart must say "I want" and your mind should say "I will."

In the spirit of John Maxwell's works, let's take a closer look at the two Cs.

Commitment

It can mean many things to many people, always a little different but always persistent. It is the ability to stick to it, whatever that is; the never-give-up, to-the-ends-of-the-earth, do-or-die attitude.

To a boxer, out to win a fight, it's picking himself up from the floor every time he falls. To a marathon runner, it's going the distance, running a mile more beyond his/her limit. To the soldier, it's looking death in the face. To the student, it's achieving the highest point average possible. To the homemaker, it's ensuring better ways to maintain family harmony. To the business person, it's working beyond his/her capacity to meet targets.

Perfection isn't possible without the willingness to commit. There can be no achievement without commitment.

Application

Give yourself a reasonable health goal. If it's a weight loss/gain plan of 10 pounds, then set your course. Attach a reasonable timetable like two months.

Commitment is tested only by one thing—action. It is easy to say the words but to apply them is another challenge. Set your health goal in motion.

Diet and exercise to achieve your dream body. On days you feel lazy, force yourself to get out of bed. This is the time you are truly tested.

There is one way to check if your commitment is on track. Get your calendar/appointment book and your check book. You will see where your time and resources go. Realign them if you find they are off-track when compared with your personal goals.

Courage

It is said "one person with courage is a majority." The first real battlefield when it comes to courage is inside a person. Successful people have to win first the battle within themselves.

Courage is not seen as the absence of fear. It is facing the fear, going beyond it and actually doing what you have to do. Once you embrace courage, these words are naturally verbalized: "I will make it, no matter what."

Application

- To grow in courage, you've got to exercise it. Today, do something you have never done before—skydiving, sing in a concert, act in a play, rock climbing, etc.
- Talk to the person/s with whom you need to settle a problem or issue.
- Take that giant step forward. If a change in your life is needed, do it. As they say, it's now or never.

The challenge

According to John Maxwell, if you want to succeed in life, you've got to decide where you stand and who you are.

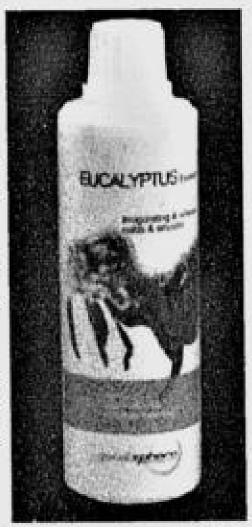
- Cop-outs—People who have no goals and do not commit.
- Hold-outs—People who don't know if they can reach their goals, so they're afraid to commit.
- Dropouts—People who start toward a goal but quit when the going gets tough.
- All-outs—People who set goals, commit to them and pay the price to reach them.

Love and light!

Reference: "The 21 Indispensable Qualities of a Leader"

Courage is not the absence of fear but facing fear, going beyond it and actually doing what you have to do

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ



Children suffer the most from bad indoor air

In the Philippines, asthma affects some 8 million children. The country is ranked 32nd in "self-reported asthma" with a prevalence rate of about 12 percent.

A recent study showed that about 12.4 percent of children aged 14-15 years old are afflicted with asthma. Over all, one out of 10 Filipinos have asthma, based on a Philippine General Hospital survey..

Is it true that the symptoms of asthma can be lessened down even without medication? The answer is YES. And one of the best ways to achieve this is with the use of an aroma therapeutic air purifying system.

goodsphere™ ESSENCES

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Advt.

New therapeutic chairs

YOU need not leave your home to enjoy the benefits of a good massage, reflexology session and other therapeutic procedures.

Osim has a wide range of healthy lifestyle products, like massage chairs, foot reflexology rollers, protherapists, mobile massagers and diagnostic equipment such as blood pressure monitors and pedometers.

The Bliss Chair OS-721, for instance, promises complete relaxation from head to toe. Among other things, it gives a firm massage using four tapping rollers with a one-motor system and two programs for upper body massage.

It has an auto-timer function of 15 minutes. The foldable backrest allows for easy storage.

The Imedic Chair OS-757 has a revolutionary infrared sensory technology that detects all the major 27 acupressure points in the body for a more effective massage. It offers, among others, a selection of manual programs and has a heater mechanism, which can reach up to 39°C for an effective heat therapy for users with sore and aching back (lower) and hips.

The kneading action increases circulation and aids in oxygenating the blood and nourishing the body.

Osim, a company involved in the design, product development, marketing and retailing of healthy lifestyle products, now operates over 300 outlets in Asia, including the Philippines, the Middle East, Europe and North America.

IMEDIC Chair OS-757, the world's first massage chair that understands your body needs, is equipped with an auto acupressure point detection function to stimulate and massage all the major 27 acupressure points on your body.

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Cerebral palsy sufferers, families hold homecoming

A HOMECOMING of persons with cerebral palsy and their families will be held 9 a.m.-4 p.m. today at the Philippine Cerebral Palsy Inc.

The activity is one of the highlights of the First National Celebral Palsy Awareness and Protection Week Sept. 16-22.

The weeklong celebration was provided for in Presidential Proclamation No. 588, signed by President Macapagal-Arroyo in March. The annual event will be devoted to organizing advocacy activities to increase the level of public awareness on disability, cerebral palsy, the Accessibility Law and Magna Carta for the Disabled.

It will also make people aware that persons with cerebral palsy can be active and responsible partners in nation-building.

Tomorrow's closing ceremonies will feature talented persons with disability and cerebral palsy who will share their talents in music and the arts through the cultural and variety show to be held at the San Juan Elementary School Gym.

The weeklong celebration was spearheaded by the Cerebral Palsied Association of the Phils. (CPAP) with the National Council for the Welfare of Persons with Disability, Department of Health and other nongovernment and private organizations.

CPAP is also celebrating its 11th anniversary this month. Call 9483464 or 7324219.